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SUPPLICATORY

ADDRESSES

TO THE

ONE

EVERLIVING AND TRUE

GOD,

To which are added a few HYMNS,

EXTRACTED FROM THE PAPERS

OF THE

LATE WILLIAM RUSSELL, ESQUIRE.

REVISED AND EDITED, AGREEABLY TO HIS WISHES,

BY HIS FRIEND AND ADMIRER,

THEOPHILUS BROWNE; M. A.

Ἀλλὰ μάργον τί μοὶ δοκεῖ εἶναι, καὶ ὡς ἀληθῶς πολλῆς φυλακῆς, ὅπως μὴ λήσῃ τὶς αὐτὸν εὐχόμενος μὲν κακὰ, δοκῶν δὲ ἀγαθά· ἔπειτ' ὀλίγον επισχὼν παλινῳδῇ, ἀνευχόμενος ἅτα τοπρῶτον ευξῆται.

Plat. Alcib. 2.

Quid prius dicam solitis Parentis
Laudibus, qui res hominum ac deorum
Qui mare et terras, variisque mundum
Temperat horis?
Unde nil majus generatur ipso,
Nec viget quicquam simile aut secundum.

Hor. [illegible]

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TO

THOMAS RUSSELL, Esq. AND Mrs. SKEY,

SON AND DAUGHTER

OF THE

PIOUS AND WORTHY AUTHOR,

THE FOLLOWING

DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES,

IN WHICH

HE GREATLY DELIGHTED,

ARE,

WITH AN ANXIOUS DESIRE TO KEEP ALIVE IN

THEIR FAMILIES,

AMONGST THEIR FRIENDS,

AND

IN THE WORLD,

THE SAME FLAME OF ACTIVE PIETY

WHICH GLOWED IN

HIS BREAST,

DEDICATED BY THEIR

OBLIGED HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE EDITOR.

4

INTRODUCTION.

PIOUS and amiable characters appearing on the stage of human life may be compared to those verdant spots which occasionally occur in the trackless extent of a sandy desert. They afford the traveller a most welcome resting-place, in which he may take refreshment and find relief; and, from which, having recruited his strength and spirits, he may proceed with the greater ease on his dreary journey, and be the better enabled to accomplish the object which he has in contemplation. Were the deserts, which are found in the torrid regions of the earth, destitute of these refreshing verdures, it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to traverse more than some small angle of them; and even over inconsiderable tracts the wanderer might do irreparable injury to his health, and abridge the term in which

he might otherwise have enjoyed the comforts of his earthly existence.

In the same manner, the journey of life is relieved and animated by a view of those excellent and exemplary persons, who have been seen in greater or fewer numbers, in all ages, passing across the wilderness of this world. We rejoice in knowing that there are, or have been, characters of this description amongst the race of man; and though we may not have been so fortunate as to enjoy the acquaintance of any of these, yet the very assurance of their having existed is calculated to cheer and refresh us, to exalt our opinion of the species to which we belong, and to lead us to bless the King of heaven for exhibiting, in the course of his providence, such examples to the world.

Amongst the number of those who have thus shone as lights to mankind, we may, with the greatest justice, point out the person, a part of whose devotional exercises is now, with all deference and respect, submitted to the public. To verify this

assumption, the editor will state such particulars of the life and character of his author as he is persuaded are competent to the purpose.

Engaged in extensive commercial concerns with Russia, Spain, and the United States of America, and exporting to these quarters of the globe the manufactures of Sheffield and Birmingham, he was at the same time intent upon making and seconding improvements in the latter town and its vicinity, where he then resided. Amongst these improvements may be enumerated the erection of a general hospital, the institution of a public library, the reparation of the adjacent roads, and an increase of accommodation and ease for foot-passengers, more especially along the streets of the town. It is obvious that a gentleman may render himself a very valuable and useful member of society, by setting on foot and encouraging works of these descriptions.

Humanity and compassion must have taken strong possession of the mind that

is prompted to concert measures for the benefit of the lowest orders of the community. In return for such exertions, no pecuniary advantage is to be expected. The poor have nothing with which to repay their best benefactors, for the most part, but declarations of their gratitude; and of these they are often very sparing. It should be considered too, that it would be fruitless and unavailing to take an active part in the accomplishment of plans for the advantage of the indigent, unless their friend is willing to assist with his purse as well as with his countenance and advice. Nor is it thought too much to be expected that an associate founder of an hospital or infirmary should both contribute handsomely to its original establishment, and have his name enrolled as one of its permanent supporters. Our benevolent author did both.

It has been justly remarked that antecedently to the promulgation of the christian dispensation, hospitals, such as we now have in almost every great town, were no where to be seen. This happy change must be allowed to reflect great honour

upon the benign and compassionate spirit of our holy religion; and those whose active exertions have been most instrumental in the erection of such beneficial establishments are worthy to be ranked amongst the enlightened friends of mercy and mankind.

It enhances the excellence of any character when efforts, made to promote the comfort and happiness of the poor, are accompanied with a readiness to further the interests of erudition and learning. Without pretending to more than moderate attainments in literature, Mr. Russel was anxious to afford to others the means of acquiring the most exalted. He wished to see the fruits of the finest geniuses that ever did honour to human nature put into the hands of his townsmen, and took a pleasure in the prospect of affording those, whose time and talents enabled them to avail themselves of it, an opportunity of making the highest advances in science and learning. In pursuance of this, he took such methods as led to the formation of a public library upon a comprehensive and liberal plan; and, by the

united aid of his advice, influence, and subscription, succeeded in bringing to maturity the project he had set his mind upon. The town of Birmingham has cause, therefore, to enroll him not only among her humane and generous citizens, but to assign him a distinguished niche, as a friend and coadjutor, in the temple of the muses.

The same disposition which prompts men to assist their fellow-creatures in affairs of importance leads them to the adoption of schemes by which comforts and conveniencies of less moment may be attained. Travelling from one part of the country to another is, in many cases, of such absolute necessity, and in others, contributes so much to the health and promotion of social intercourse, that whatever tends to render it expensive, unpleasant, or dangerous, beyond what is unavoidable, must be considered as an evil which should be mitigated as much as possible, if not wholly removed. The gentleman of whom we are speaking, perceiving to what extent the evil prevailed in his own town and neighbour-

hood, applied himself with the utmost diligence to have the public roads repaired and improved. Having pointed out the means of doing this in the most convincing manner to his friends, he prevailed upon them to combine their efforts with his; and, in a few years, the change produced in this respect was noticed with admiration by all who knew in what state the most frequented ways were before; and the accommodation which passengers of all descriptions experienced was joyfully acknowledged.

If, in regard to the noble exertion made to erect an hospital, Mr. R. might, in the language used by the illustrious Arabian Patriarch, say, "I was a father to the "poor, the blessing of him that was ready "to perish came upon me, and I caused "the widow's heart to sing for joy;" so, in reference to the literary institution which he patronized, he might be said to be "eyes to the blind;" and, inasmuch as he contributed to the facility of travelling, he might adopt the other expression, "I was "feet to the lame."

Had Mr. R. confined his efforts to the instances which have been mentioned, he would have deservedly stood very high in the esteem of all good men, and possessed a powerful claim to their veneration and gratitude. But he disdained the idea of being circumscribed in his views and undertakings. He was not content with filling a narrow sphere of beneficence, and limiting himself to local and temporary endeavours, he stood forward at all proper opportunities as the strenuous and undaunted advocate of civil and religious liberty. Upon great public questions of a political or moral nature, he was seen amongst his fellow-townsmen espousing and maintaining the cause of universal and impartial justice. He admired the constitution, and rejoiced in the establishment of the House of Brunswick upon the throne of this realm; but he uniformly lifted up his voice against any attempt to undermine the liberties, abridge the privileges, or add unnecessarily to the burdens of his country. No man could contend with more spirit and manly eloquence than he did for the repeal of the test and corporation acts. He viewed

them as imposing cruel and needless restraints upon a large body of men who were steadily and upon principle attached to the best interests of the state. Well-knowing that those who could not approve the ecclesiastical establishment had consented to involve themselves in disabilities and privations, from the noble and generous motive of securing, in the most effectual manner, the interests of the Protestant faith, he was grieved to witness the continuance of statutes injurious to the political rights of his countrymen, when the danger they were designed to obviate no longer existed. Justice, policy, and common gratitude seemed to him to call aloud for their immediate abrogation.

He manfully remonstrated against that proclivity too often displayed by the ministers of the crown to involve the country in expensive and unnecessary wars. Offensive hostilities, which had in view no better objects than extension of territory or aggrandisement of power, he utterly abhorred. But if they appeared to be entered into to crush the rising liberties of a people that had been the abject slaves of arbitrary authority, and who

were anxious to assert the rights that belonged to them as men and christians, his soul revolted against them with unmixed detestation.

The measures adopted to compel the transatlantic provinces to contribute to the exigencies of the parent state he disapproved altogether; not indeed deeming it unreasonable that as appendages to this country and partakers of advantages from their alliance with it they should bear a proportionable share of its burdens, but condemning it as arbitrary and unjust to dictate to them the peculiar manner in which they should raise the imposts which they did not refuse to pay. The abolition of that inhuman traffick in the persons of our fellow-men, commonly called the slave trade, he looked upon as one of the grossest outrages against humanity that was ever committed, and diametrically opposed to every principle of justice and mercy. In the great question which has been usually styled Catholic Emancipation, his voice was for liberty of conscience, and the unshackled use of private judgment. Nothing more was, in his opinion, wanting to secure the civil and

political rights of all the members of the community; and that being done, he thought that no person ought to be exposed to the danger of incurring the smallest loss, inconvenience, or disgrace, directly or indirectly, by any thing done or left undone on account of his religious sentiments.

He considered government as an ordinance of God, to promote the interests of the people at large without partiality or prejudice. Princes he regarded in no other light than that of the fathers of those over whom they reign; and any attempt to aggrandize themselves at the expense of their people, he thought utterly irreconcileable with their duty, and the original design of their appointment. Equally adverse was he to anarchy and insubordination as to despotism and oppression. The relation between governors and governed, he considered as imposing mutual duties; and the violation of these on either side he treated as subversive of the best interests of mankind, and utterly repugnant to every principle of equity and justice.

The disunion of the legislative from the executive branch of the constitution he classed amongst the firmest bulwarks of liberty; and the investiture of the power of repealing ancient statutes and enacting new ones in the hands of three parties, that were designed to act as checks and balances one upon another, he ranked amongst those salutary expedients which reflect the highest honour upon human sagacity and wisdom.

That the leading inhabitants of the town of Birmingham were sensible of his great worth, and the weight which his unsullied character and liberalmindedness gave him, was evinced by their very frequently inviting him to preside at their public meetings, and respectfully listening to the powerful strains of argument and eloquence with which he maintained the side that he had upon due deliberation espoused.

In his private as well as public capacity, he showed himself to be the zealous patron not only of liberty and learning, but of the rights of humanity in general. Soon after that able philosopher and divine Dr. Priestley

took up his residence near him, having been appointed one of the ministers of a numerous and respectable body of christians in Birmingham, an intimate acquaintance took place between them. They perceived in each other a congeniality of disposition, and the acquaintance which originated in mutual admiration quickly ripened into the most friendly attachment.

The learned Doctor's own words may be very properly cited here, "On my removal to Birmingham," he says, in his memoirs published 1806, "commenced my "intimacy with Mr. Russell, whose public "spirit and zeal in every good cause can "hardly be exceeded. My obligations to "him were various and constant, so as not "to be estimated by sums of money. At "his proposal, I doubt not, some of the "heads of the congregation made me a "present of two hundred pounds, to assist "me in my theological publications." Four pages after this, (viz.) in page 98, he says, "I have been minister here between seven "and eight years without any interruption

"in my happiness, and for this, I am sensi-
"ble, that I am in a great measure indebted
"to the friendship of Mr. Russell."

Very handsome and grateful mention is made in a monthly publication of considerable celebrity, by a Mr. Luckcock of Birmingham, of the generous assistance which our author afforded him when his affairs were in a state of embarrassment, and of the happy effects which it produced. A very near relative, in a letter to myself of a recent date, says, "I could give many "instances of Mr. Russell's great genero-"sity and kindness to the unfortunate and "distressed. In this respect, I never knew "any man surpass him; but delicacy to-"wards those he had served, would prevent "the mention of these anecdodes in a pub-"lication."

For a long series of years, his life was passed in a calm and placid tenor of business and benificence. He flourished with his family around him like the thornless rose, not only inoffensive and harmless, but diffusing in every direction the sweet

fragrance of his good actions, and attracting the admiration and love of all, especially of those who knew him best. Thus situated, he appeared to have good reason to say, with the celebrated Patriarch to whom we have before compared him, "I "shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply "my days as the sand." But alas! though the latter part of this prospect was verified, yet the other was prevented by a change, or rather a succession of changes in his situation which neither himself or his friends ever anticipated. He was driven from his home, to which he never more returned.

That memorable revolution which took place in France in the year 1789 roused the apprehensions of the established governments throughout Europe. They imagined that the ancient relations of civil amity and peace were about to be broken to pieces, and the ties of social order torn asunder. Hence those who viewed the events that took place in a different light, considering them as the natural effects of oppressed liberty struggling for its restoration, and

leading on to an æra of diffusive and enlightened freedom, were looked upon with an eye of jealousy—were first suspected to be the enemies of legitimate authority—and then thought to be objects worthy to be disarmed of the power they were supposed to possess of being injurious. To causes of this kind Mr. Russell owed the sad interruption of his peace and usefulness, which commenced in the year 1791.

Dr. Priestley experienced the first shock, and Mr. R. his steady and faithful friend, shared in the effects of the concussion. The unhappy riots which were kindled in the town of Birmingham, directed their fury first against the Philosopher, and in consequence of that, against the Philanthropist. The houses of both were beset, mercilessly ravaged, and, with their valuable contents, consigned to the flames. The Doctor lost the whole of his costly and admirable philosophical apparatus, together with a number of MSS. of incalculable worth in a literary point of view.

It was not, however, without a most noble and heroic struggle, that Mr. R.

suffered the rioters to accomplish their nefarious purpose. He appeared personally before them, warmly expostulated with them on the criminality and madness of their proceedings, and preserved his house during three days; at the expiration of which he desisted from the conflict, only because his family stood in need of his care and protection. Indeed such was his courage, spirit, and presence of mind, that those who witnessed these disgraceful transactions, scrupled not to give it as their decided opinion, that if he had been supported by his brother magistrates as he ought to have been, and had obtained that assistance from them which he earnestly solicited, he would not only have escaped himself, but all the mischief that ensued might have been prevented.

When we related several particular instances of Mr. R.'s zeal and promptitude to be useful in his neighbourhood, we might very properly have noticed the active discharge of the office of a county magistrate, he having been many years a justice

of the peace for the county of Worcester, in which his house at Showel Green, near Birmingham, was situated; but the mention of it in this connection serves to illustrate another trait of his generous and benevolent nature, displaying a degree of fortitude, firmness, and undaunted resolution the most praiseworthy and admirable.

Here was a striking instance of a good man suffering not only in contempt of his goodness and excellence, but absolutely in consequence of it. He espoused a cause the most friendly to the best interests of mankind, and patronized a gentleman who was as upright and zealous an advocate for that cause as himself; but, on these accounts, he was stigmatized as an enemy to the rights of mankind and the welfare of his country; and the storm which seemed designed to overwhelm his friend, involved him in its rage, and exposed him to a cruel and lamentable interruption of his peace, his business, and his usefulness. Thinking it not safe to continue in the vicinity of Birmingham, or disgusted with the brutal treatment he met with, he repaired with

his family to London; whence, after a short stay, during which he waited upon the Prime Minister, and received from him an assurance of his desire, that the sufferers should be indemnified, he directed his steps to the neighbourhood of Gloucester.

He now, however, felt himself in great measure out of his element. The ferment which arose to so fearful an excess in Birmingham, affected, in different degrees, the whole nation, and rendered our Philanthropist unable to exert himself to any considerable advantage in those ways which were most congenial to his active and beneficent disposition. He accordingly turned his attention to those distant regions whither his much injured friend had been obliged to fly; and having some important mercantile concerns unsettled in America, he resolved to migrate thither and leave a country which had made him so ungrateful a return for his best services, and had requited him evil for the good he had done. In pursuance of this resolution, he embarked with his family August 1794, (being then in his 54th year), for the State of Maryland; but at this place he did not arrive till the autumn

of the following year, being unhappily taken prisoner soon after leaving Falmouth by a French Squadron, and carried into Brest.

Often has he been heard to relate the very uncomfortable situation in which he was then placed—how little distinction was made between him and the lowest of the persons who were captured with him, and the extreme difficulty he had, notwithstanding the immediate intercession of the American minister in his behalf, to be permitted to proceed on his voyage. Almost indescribable are the hardships and mortifications which he sustained during a detention of nearly thirteen months. In addition to this, he used to lament the failure of a negotiation into which he, with some of his friends, had entered into for the purchase of a considerable tract of land in America, designed to afford an asylum for all persons whose civil or religious sentiments were discountenanced and persecuted by the government at home.

When he was fixed on the Western Continent he resumed, as far as he was able,

his strenuous endeavours to be serviceable to his fellow-creatures; and, in the course of the five years he spent there, he was honourably noticed by some of the most distinguished characters, especially by the illustrious founder of American independence. With General Washington, Mr. Jefferson the President, Dr. Priestley, and other most respectable persons, he formed or renewed an acquaintance, and corresponded with them in a free and friendly manner.

In compensation for a considerable debt owing to him by an American gentleman, he had an estate assigned him in the Province of Normandy, in France. This it was natural for him to wish to visit, and his family being anxious to exchange their present residence for the shores of their native country, the storm of political persecution having in a great measure subsided, he consented to return with them upon the condition of himself and his son landing on the French coast, and spending a few months there in examining the property of which

he was become the possessor.—But here disappointment thwarted his views again. When he wished to join that part of his family which had returned to England, and which had been increased since he left home by the marriage of his eldest daughter with a respectable English gentleman, the proscription issued against his countrymen in 1802, prevented his proceeding, which was the more extraordinary from his being beyond the age of those persons to whom the proscription was avowedly designed to attach. He could obtain no other favour than leave to retire to his estate in the neighbourhood of Ardennes, in Normandy, where he continued to reside during the remainder of the war, or between twelve and thirteen years.

In this place his characteristic benevolence had ample scope for its exertion, and it shone out with peculiar lustre. The lower orders of the people around him were reduced to very abject poverty by the revolutionary war, and the greatest distress prevailed amongst them. The Catholic

Priests, whose general attention to the poor members of their flocks, redounds greatly to their credit, frequently waited upon him with applications for relief of the afflicted and distressed. To these applications he always lent a patient ear, displaying the most generous sympathy, and cheerfully affording relief to the utmost that his ability, under the direction of prudence, would admit. "At this time," says one of his relatives, "his bounty was regular and "very extensive, and continued so after "he left the country." The appellation given him by those who were the objects of his compassion and beneficence, speaks more effectually to his honour than the most laboured panegyric,—he was called, "Le pere des pauvres," or, "The father "of the poor."

It ought to be recorded at the same time, that in the various interviews which he had with the Catholic clergy, he never concealed or dissembled his religious sentiments. "I "am not ashamed," he would freely tell them, "of my religious creed: I am upon

" conviction a decided Protestant, but I
" love all mankind, and especially all up-
" right and good persons; and I see no
" reason why diversity of opinion should
" alienate one man from another."

Upon his return from France in the year 1814, he resided some time at Upton-on-Severn, in the County of Worcester, and some time at Henley, a neighbouring village, gratifying a very natural and amiable desire to spend his last days in the bosom of his family. Difficulty of hearing, which he had long been troubled with, had now grown to such an extreme that conversation could be carried on only by writing or signs:—it was, however, surprising with what quickness he could frequently catch the meaning of a speaker, by watching the motion of his lips, particularly when a word or two were sufficient to convey the answer or information required.

Having been always alive to the interests of religion, he now devoted his attention to it with increased ardour. He

employed himself in selecting prayers and hymns from the most approved writers;—altered many of the former to suit his own ideas of devotional composition so much as to make them almost his own, and occasionally added whole passages from the stores of his own mind. Family prayer was regularly practised twice a day, and the private exercises of devotion occupied considerable portions of every returning morning and evening.

Anxious to leave behind him what might be most serviceable to his survivors, and promote the interests of true piety, he consulted several of his friends as to the expediency of printing some of his prayers, and affording the public an opportunity of reaping the fruit of his labours without trouble, and at a moderate expense. Amongst the persons whom he deemed competent to give him advice upon this point, he did the Editor the honour of numbering him; and, at various intervals, longer or shorter, for nearly three years, the subject was freely and fully discussed. Could he have

been induced to adopt the advice of this last friend, he would have appeared before the public in his own person—presented his prayers to them with his own hand—and after having assigned his reasons for thus offering himself to their notice, he would have given them a clear and faithful relation of the principal acts and occurrences of his eventful, interesting, and useful life. But as modesty and diffidence are frequent accompaniments of great and exalted merit, so it was in his case. He seemed to shrink from the idea of publicity, and was much more anxious to be good than to appear so. Though reminded of the sacred injunction to "let his light shine before him," and bowing with humble reverence to the authority upon which it was founded, he yet deeply dreaded any thing like an imputation of vanity and ostentation. From these opposing motives he became indecisive, and the persuasions of his relatives and friends were unable to overcome the irresolution which they occasioned.

Since, however, it was manifest as well from his letters as his conversation upon

the subject, both at other times and but a short space before his decease, that it was the prevailing desire of his mind that his devotional exercises should be offered to the public after his death, if not before, his will has been complied with, and now, as there is no danger of giving him pain by a fair exhibition of his virtues, and placing his character in its true light, that reserve which would have been most becoming, and indeed an act of justice to his feelings when living, has been dispensed with as no longer required either by delicacy, propriety, or the purest respect and esteem. The public are requested to receive him in his works as a zealous friend of the best interests of mankind,—as one who is desirous of conciliating their regards with a simple view to confer upon them the most valuable favours in his power.

Having only hinted before, particularly when speaking of his friend Dr. Priestley, and the congregation over which that gentleman presided, what religious sentiments Mr. Russell embraced, I shall now inform

my readers that he was, upon conviction, grounded on diligent and patient enquiry, a firm believer in the personal as well as essential unity of the eternal God; and, though sometime after he discarded the doctrine of a plurality of persons, he was much perplexed and very undecided as to the nature and office of Jesus Christ, yet the result of his reading and reflections upon these points was, his being convinced that Jesus was not only the Christ, but that the human was the nature, and the only nature, of which the Messiah partook. His office he believed to be that of a mediator between God and men, that he was fully entitled to the name and character of a Saviour, a Redeemer, an Advocate, an Intercessor, inasmuch as his first and chief object was to preserve men from the influence of sinful habits, by holding out ample encouragement to reform and amend, assuring them that God was perfectly good, and disposed at all times to grant good things to them that ask him; giving commission also to his Apostles to go into all nations to proclaim repentance and remission of sins, or,

in other words, that repentance was at once an indispensible condition, and a certain means of obtaining forgiveness at the hands of God.

It has been frequently alleged that such a belief is not competent either to produce active lively devotion, persevering goodness of conduct, or exemplary and composed firmness and resignation at the approach of dissolution; but the life and character of our author annul and invalidate all such allegations. Though an Unitarian Christian, in the strictest sense of the expression, he was yet eminently pious and devout, indefatigably intent upon doing good to mankind, and promoting the honour of God and the cause of true religion in the world. The unlooked-for changes of his life, together with increasing age diminished indeed in some measure his practical activity, and made him more anxious to court the shade of retirement; yet, to those who were well acquainted with him, there was visibly conspicuous the same zealous wish for the

success of true religion and rational liberty amongst all mankind. He sought out persons of real goodness in his neighbourhood, embraced with pleasure an opportunity of being introduced to such as he thought merited that character, and was delighted with carrying on a free and friendly correspondence upon all subjects relating to the highest concerns and noblest interests of mankind. He made a practice of purchasing well-written religious tracts, and giving them away for the benefit of individuals, congregations, or Sunday schools; to the latter of which he occasionally contributed handsomely, and rejoiced to hear of their being under good management and flourishing. To applications made to him of an eleemosynary nature, or with a view to enable his Christian Brethren to carry on the worship of their Maker in spirit and in truth, he was always ready to attend; and seldom, if ever, dismissed a modest petitioner without some convincing proof of his liberal and generous disposition.

The writer of this can bear ample testimony, from his own experience, to the noble and truly Christian temper of his friend. Almost the whole interval between his return from abroad to his death, he had communications with him by letter or conversation the most frank and unrestrained; and, were it necessary to produce vouchers from his correspondence in attestation of what is now said in his praise, nothing would be so easy.

Not that it is to be understood from any thing here said that this amiable and worthy man was without failings, or exempt from what might be called defects, inconsistent with the general excellence of his character. The native activity of his mind sometimes assumed an air of restlessness and impatience. Hurt with the flagrant misconduct of those especially, whose situation in life promised better things, he sometimes spoke of them with a warmth of abhorrence bordering upon acrimony, and his mind appeared to be immoderately discomposed at witnessing an inferior degree of zeal and

earnestness in the cause of truth, where more was reasonably to be expected, without making due allowance for that diversity of constitution and temperament by which the most worthy characters are seen to be distinguished. Opinions which he had taken up for want of a right understanding of the circumstances upon which they were founded, he betrayed somewhat too great reluctance to relinquish when his mistake was pointed out. His great infirmity of difficult hearing appeared occasionally to affect his spirits, and to impress him with a mortifying suspicion that his presence was of little value in company, though, generally speaking, he was pleasingly affable and agreeably cheerful. Though he displayed considerable quickness in taking the meaning of a speaker, either by the gesture of his person or the peculiar motion of his lips, yet there were times, when, confiding too much to his discernment, he quite mistook the import of what was said; and, when it was intimated that he was wrong, he would try again, and guess amiss a second and perhaps a third or fourth time,

which seemed somewhat to ruffle the usual serenity of his mind, and render him uneasy and disturbed.

That great humility and diffidence which he possessed, and which were most honourable to him, were thought by his best friends to lead him to extremes, insomuch that he was dissatisfied with his companions or correspondents, applying to him the epithets of *worthy* or *excellent*; and those who felt their obligations to him to be considerable, as the Editor can truly affirm that he did, were forbidden to speak in merited terms of his benevolence; even to be denominated a patron, though he was, in many cases, most justly entitled to the appellation, was more than he thought himself deserving of. If these were weaknesses, they almost merit to be called amiable ones, as they arose from those traits of character which reflect the highest honour upon any human being. The same observation may be made in reference to the great urbanity of his manners, which seemed sometimes almost

to degenerate into ceremoniousness, and might be called ultra politeness. But this arose from the noble principle of preferring others to himself, and deriving pleasure and satisfaction from making them comfortable and happy.

It may be proper to mention that this excellent man was very fortunate in his private connections. The lady whom he married was of a very amiable disposition, of good family and fortune, and he lived with her in the sweetest harmony of mutual affection. But she was taken from him by the will of an all-ruling providence many years before his death. His children he had the felicity to see respectably and comfortably settled in life, and two of them survive to lament the loss of an affectionate and benevolent parent, and to imitate the admirable example which he set them. It is pleasing to add, that Mr. and Mrs. R. agreed exactly in their religious sentiments; she, as well as himself, being a well-convinced worshipper of the one God, the Father of Jesus Christ and of all mankind; and both of them understanding, in

their plain and obvious sense, the words which the Evangelist John assures us his honoured Master uttered in a solemn prayer to his Father, "This is life eternal, that they "might know Thee to be the only true "God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast "sent, *i. e.* Jesus to be the Christ whom "Thou hast sent."—*John* xvii. 3.

Not long before his death Mr. R. drew up an imperfect sketch of a preface to his prayers, in which he took pains to obviate an objection against the too great length of his invocations to the Almighty, and the enumeration of his attributes and perfections; vindicating them from the charge of unnecessary enlargement and repetition; alleging, to use his own words, that "the displays of the divine perfections "are endless; and it is natural to suppose, "that every truly devout mind will find edi-"fication and pleasure in contemplating and "expressing its sense of them." As he was willing, however, to submit to the judgment of his friends in this as in most respects, he consented to an abridgment of the introductory sentences, and the reader will find them considerably curtailed.

The latter part of the sketch is most worthy of attention, as it breathes the finest spirit of devotion and benevolence, and is well calculated to make us see the genuine excellence of his pious and good mind. "I "believe," he says, "that as I am now "leaving the world, and know that the cur-"tain will soon drop between my view and "all it contains, I cannot do my brethren "of mankind a more essential kindness than "offering my earnest and warmest recom-"mendation to strive seriously and dili-"gently after a spirit of piety and devotion, "where it is not already attained; and to "maintain a constant attention to it where "it may be already happily acquired. All "may be assured that its possession and im-"provement will produce the purest enjoy-"ment of the present life, and be the best "preparation for the future state, where "their happiness will be increasing and im-"proving through all eternity. But the "true spirit of devotion can never be attained "until we have acquired just ideas of our "heavenly Father, and just conceptions of "his adorable perfections—until we conceive

"of him as the God and Father of us and of
"all his creatures—who intends their wel-
"fare and final happiness, who governs
"them with lenity and kindness, being
"long-suffering, merciful, and gracious;
"as he who has made himself known to us
"by Jesus Christ, who has taught us that
"we may at all times have free access to
"God, and that he is ever ready to receive
"and bless us as his children, when we re-
"vere and approach him with those disposi-
"tions and affections which a dutiful child
"possesses towards a kind, a wise, and in-
"dulgent parent."

"Thus," to continue the good man's language, "we may see God as our heavenly
"Father, and be led to see that we cannot
"more properly honour him than by entirely
"trusting in him, paying him an unlimited
"obedience, and expecting of him always
"what is for our good. When we have
"thus learnt to think of Almighty God, and
"are become habitually conversant with
"such ideas of him, then we shall have ac-
"quired the true spirit of devotion—then

"will it become a source of comfort and de-
"light. It is truly said of the wicked, that
"God is not in all his thoughts, but
"the truly pious man keeps the Lord
"always before him. Let every one, there-
"fore, who desires to enjoy the pleasures of
"devotion, make the ideas of the Almighty
"familiar to his mind. This need not ex-
"clude any other thoughts, either of busi-
"ness or of pleasure, if they be but lawful
"and innocent. Let none, therefore, repel
"the ideas of God when they present them-
"selves to their minds, but let all nourish,
"encourage, and support them; impress
"them deeply on their hearts, and they will
"lead to pleasure and satisfaction in every
"thing which relates to religion; and par-
"ticularly in a growing acquaintance with
"the life, character, and example of Jesus
"Christ, our leader and our king, and the
"great captain of our salvation."

Except to those who refuse to give the appellation of Christian to such as cannot reconcile a belief of the divine nature of Jesus Christ, and his perfect equality with

the Father, to the doctrine of one God which is frequently and emphatically affirmed in the scriptures, Mr. R. must appear to have been a true, sincere, zealous, practical disciple of the great Mediator between God and man. The whole tenor of his life, and the language which he used, both in conversation and writing, prove him to have been worthy of this character; and the concluding scenes of his earthly existence, with an account of which I shall close this introduction to his devotional exercises, will evince at once the uniform consistency of his conduct, and show that an Unitarian Christian knows, as well as any of his brethren, both how to live and how to die.

In the early part of January, 1818, he was afflicted with a cold and sore throat, and in a few days afterwards, with an inflammation in his side. The best medical advice that was at hand was resorted to, and the means used for his restoration seemed to succeed very well at first; but the loss of blood, together with the rigid

system of abstinence to which it was thought right that he should be subjected, whilst it overcame the complaint, left the constitution in too debilitated a state to admit of a recovery. On the 21st he was so much better as to be able to read, and make observations upon what he read to his relatives. On the 22nd the Physician encouraged a hope that he would be convalescent in a short time; but the hope, though flattering, was delusive. He relapsed into a state of repeated and long-continued dozing, which had before accompanied his disorder, and his strength and vital powers gradually decayed. In the intervals of his dozing, his active mind appeared to be cheerfully engaged in contemplation, and the prospect of dissolution gave him not the least uneasiness or alarm. "From the first apprehension of danger to "the last moment of his existence on earth, "he seemed to be perfectly sensible; and, "with extraordinary courage, (which never "forsook him for a moment), he desired to "pass into a future and better state of ex-"istence." I quote from the letter of his

relation, at whose house he died, and who attended him to the last.

The same excellent gentleman, in a letter subsequent to Mr. R.'s decease, speaking of his opinions, says, "It is impossible to state "exactly at what time he became a Unitarian "in his religious creed, it was, however, "very early in life; and, like many other en-"quiring and liberal Christians, he first "adopted the Arian opinion, and from fur-"ther consideration of the subject, he be-"came most zealously and firmly persuaded, "that the divine unity was most consonant "to reason and revelation. In conversation, "when it led him to talk of the revolution "in his religious sentiments from the As-"sembly's Catechism to the Unitarian opi-"nion, he would most heartily thank God "for those means which had produced this "change of sentiment, to which he attri-"buted the happiness and enjoyment of his "life; and it is impossible for me to express "the joy and comfort, and, I may say, the "exultation which he derived from it at "the awful and trying hour of dissolution."

His earthly existence terminated in the evening of Monday, January 26th, 1818, when he had entered into the third month of his 79th year.

The Editor most fervently prays, that all mankind may have the wisdom to embrace such sentiments of religion, upon patient and deliberate enquiry, as may render their latter end similar to that of this most worthy and revered person; of whom it may be truly said, that after having upon the whole lived the life, he also assuredly died the death of the righteous.

GLOUCESTER,
Oct. 25, 1818.

ADDRESSES,

&c.

FIRST ADDRESS.

O MOST holy and eternal God, who art infinite and incomprehensible, possessed of every glorious attribute and divine perfection! With all possible reverence and humility I would now bow down before Thee, taking thy sacred name upon my lips, and adoring Thee as the author of my existence. Every part of the universe which Thou hast created bears testimony to the excellencies of thy nature, and loudly calls upon me and every rational creature to celebrate thy praise, and to give glory to Thee, the supreme majesty of heaven and earth! O my God! how manifold and various is thy goodness! how abundant! how extensive!—but above all,

how unspeakable are the obligations of me and all others of thy rational creatures, to whom Thou hast revealed thyself by Jesus Christ, thy well-beloved Son, in the endearing character of a father, and given to mankind the strongest proofs of thy tender mercy and loving kindness!

I humbly beseech Thee, O Lord! to sanctify all thy mercies to me, and to enable me to improve them with all possible seriousness and diligence. Under a deep sense of my remissness and disobedience in time past, I would now humble myself before thy throne, and earnestly implore thy forgiveness for every thing in my temper and conduct, that has been inconsistent with that constant vigilance and care, which are enjoined upon me in thy holy word, and enforced by the example of my Lord and Master, whose precepts it is the earnest wish and desire of my soul uniformly and cheerfully to obey.

Gracious God! do Thou in mercy hear my prayer for the pardon of every transgression I have committed against thy commandments.—With the sincerest sorrow for every instance of folly, perverseness, and negligence, of which I have

been unhappily guilty, I do most earnestly pray and beseech Thee, O God, to forgive me. For the time to come, enable me to act a wiser and better part, assist me to keep my heart with all diligence, knowing that out of it are the issues of life. May I watch carefully against the temptations that surround me, and guard especially against those sins that most easily beset me, striving continually to keep my conscience void of offence towards Thee, my God! and towards my fellow-creatures. After the example of my Lord and Saviour, may I study to do good to all, by acts of kindness and generosity, of tenderness and compassion, considering mankind at large as my brethren, and thy children, as forming one great family, of which Thou art the common Father; and thus may I endeavour to fulfil the whole law of Christ.

Grant, O my God! that in imitation of my dear and honoured Master, I may become truly meek, humble, and lowly in heart, patient and resigned, submissive and silent under every affliction and trial;—being at all times disposed to say, "Not my will, but thine, O Lord! be done"! May I carry my views beyond the present

scene to the resurrection of the just, and to that great day of retribution to the righteous, when all sorrow and suffering shall be done away, and all events shall be seen to be for the good of thy creatures, and to the glory of Thee, their Maker.

May it please Thee, O Lord, to hear, accept, and bless me in the prayers and praises I have now addressed to Thee, the sovereign Ruler of the world! the infinite and eternal Jehovah! who art the one only everlasting and true God! to Thee I would devoutly and reverently ascribe the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and for ever.—*Amen.*

SECOND ADDRESS.

O ALMIGHTY and ever-living God! with deep self-abasement and veneration, I, thy weak and imperfect creature, would adore Thee, whose name alone is Jehovah, and who art the creator, preserver, and governor of all things. The earth, with all the numerous worlds and systems that surround it, is the production of thy infinite power, wisdom, and goodness. Thou didst but speak, and thy purpose was effected.—Thou didst but command, and all things rose into existence,—and magnified be thy holy name! Thou didst create the boundless universe from motives of the purest benevolence, and in order to communicate happiness to all who are capable of receiving it from thy infinite fulness.

Rejoicing in thy unbounded and everlasting goodness, I would now render unto Thee the glory due to thy sacred majesty. I thank Thee, righteous Father! that thy eternal power and perfection are so illustriously manifested in every part of thy

works; and, that in the open volume of nature, we can discern such clear and legible characters of the transcendant excellencies and glories which exalt Thee to an infinite superiority above every thing that exists.

I praise Thee for raising up, in past ages, prophets and good persons to teach mankind the knowledge of religion and virtue, and to persuade them to the practice of it. I devoutly bless Thee that in the fulness of time thy anointed servant Jesus appeared, bringing life and immortality into the fullest light, and offering himself as the way, the truth, and the life to the world. I humbly thank Thee for the proofs he gave that Thou, O God! wast with him—by the miracles he wrought, and by the prophecies he uttered and fulfilled—by the purity of his doctrines—the perfection of his precepts—and the unsullied purity of his example. Adored be thy goodness for his resurrection from the grave—for exalting him to glory—for giving him a name that is above every name—for appointing him to judge the world in righteousness, and to render unto men according to what they shall have done in the body.

I earnestly pray, O Lord! that thy abounding goodness shown to me and to all mankind may deeply impress my heart, and have an habitual influence over every part of my life. May the various powerful motives to religion and virtue, with which the sacred writings abound, produce their proper effects upon me: may they free my mind from the power and dominion of all iniquity, and engage me to live soberly, righteously, and piously in this present world. Professing to be risen with Christ from the death of sin to a life of righteousness, grant most gracious God! that I may, by a patient continuance in well-doing, seek for glory, honour, and immortality, that when he who is my life shall appear, I may also appear with him in glory, and receive the end and objects of my faith and hope, even everlasting salvation and happiness.

To Thee, most gracious God! I would humbly pray for all my brethren of mankind. Grant that all thy rational creatures may become the grateful obedient subjects of thy righteous government. Let the nature of true religion be everywhere well understood—let it possess its due

influence over the hearts, and manifest its power in the lives of men. May the light of the gospel be continually diffusing itself over the world, until all mankind acknowledge Jesus as the messiah, and obey him as their master. Let such as have embraced his religion become truly pious and grateful towards Thee their God, benevolent and useful to all around them, and, at all times, disposed to do unto others as they could reasonably desire others in exchanged circumstances to do to them. Banish from every part of the earth all ignorance, oppression, persecution, and war, all immorality, profaneness, profligacy, and vice; and let the prevalence of pure religion and virtue, knowledge, peace, and good order bless every class and order of society.

O thou supreme Governor of all worlds! in mercy grant that thy laws which are all wise, holy, just, and good, may be everywhere obeyed. Bring about the happy time when the whole human race shall receive them with sincerity and gratitude, and the obedience paid to them, shall become like the perfect obedience of the blessed and glorified spirits above.

To thy merciful care, Father of heaven! I would now humbly commit myself and every thing in which I am interested, beseeching Thee to be my guide through life in all its varying scenes—to be my support and comfort when my eyes shall be closing in death—and to raise me to the enjoyment of thy favour through the unbounded ages of a happy eternity.

All honour and glory, praise and power, be ascribed to Thee, the one only ever-living and true God, for ever.—*Amen.*

THIRD ADDRESS.

Most high and ever blessed God, before whom angelic hosts bow down with all possible reverence and humility! with what self-abasement and lowliness of heart does it become such a weak and frail creature as I am to approach thy throne, and pour out my soul in prayer and supplication be-before Thee! Most incapable am I of fully conceiving thy glorious perfections—the extent of thy creating and preserving power —thy infinite wisdom—thy unlimited and inexhaustible goodness. But the manifestations of thy great glory, and the displays of thy transcendant perfections, are such, as to cause me to rejoice before Thee with joy exalted and unfeigned.

In the book of nature, I can read the demonstrations of thy eternal power and godhead, but still more clearly hast Thou revealed thyself to the world by Jesus Christ, by whom mankind have been taught their duty to Thee as their creator, preserver, and never-failing friend and benefactor.

Blessed for ever be thy holy name, that I know and can adore Thee as the first great cause of the universe, and of all that it contains—the creator of all that exists, and the sole supporter and preserver of all,—to whom alone the adorations of thy creatures are to be paid, and who hast permitted me to address Thee as my Father and my God.

Most humbly and earnestly do I pray that Thou wouldst sanctify to me all the knowledge I possess of thy attributes and perfections:—may they lead me to feel and to be habitually mindful of my obligations to Thee, as the author of my being, and the giver of every good and perfect gift. Grant, O my God! that these ideas may become more familiar to my mind, and more interesting and dear to my heart. May I diligently cherish the hopes they inspire—be cheered and animated by the prospects they present, and advance, day by day, in love, reverence, and obedience towards Thee my God! May I feel a sincere and expanded benevolence to all my fellow-creatures, and continually improving my christian character, become better qualified for that supreme and everlasting

felicity, which Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour is gone to prepare for all those who love Thee, and strive to approve themselves before Thee. O give strength and confirmation, I beseech Thee, to the solemn purposes I form to devote myself wholly unreservedly and cheerfully to thy most holy will.

Bring all mankind, O God! to know and consider themselves as children of the same common Father,—to regard and esteem each other as brethren, and to be studious to promote peace, mutual improvement, and happiness. Grant that my relations and friends may be guided, directed, and governed by a prevailing desire to promote the honour of thy name. By a wise and becoming improvement of thy mercy and favour in this world, may they be daily ripening in their preparations for a happy and glorious eternity.

Most sincerely would I also intercede in behalf of those who, for whatever cause, have conceived any displeasure against me. If I have acted unjustly or unkindly towards them, I ask forgiveness for myself upon the terms of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: and if they indulge a spirit of illwill against me without cause, I solicit mercy for them.

Now unto thee who art the Lord God omnipotent,—the God of my life and the lengthener of my days,—the rock of my confidence and the foundation of my hopes,—the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation—I would, with all possible solemnity and devotion, ascribe, as being most justly due, all honour and glory, praise and blessing, thanksgiving and adoration, for ever.—*Amen.*

FOURTH ADDRESS.

The heavens are full of thy glory and majesty O Lord God Almighty! great and wonderful are thy works,—just and true are all thy ways.—Thou alone art holy!—Thou art the only wise God, and thou doest good continually.

Accept and bless me, most gracious Father, in the offering of prayer and praise which I would now present unto Thee. Enable me to pray unto Thee in such manner that my prayer may ascend up to Thee with acceptance, and this my humble tribute find favour in thy sight. Thou gavest me life, and endowest me with understanding. By thy paternal care all my wants are supplied, and in Thee I continually live and move and have my being.

I rejoice that all events are under thy guidance, and conducted by thy fatherly providence, that nothing can befal any of thy creatures without thy knowledge and permission; and that Thou wilt cause all things to work together for the good of those who love and serve Thee. Thou art

slow to anger and plentious in mercy, even to thy disobedient children; and Thou wilt abundantly pardon all those who forsake their iniquities and turn from the error of their ways.

I praise and give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, for all the aid and encouragement Thou hast granted to mankind by Jesus Christ, for the attainment of thy favour and everlasting salvation. I would rejoice in thy universal government, and confess my great and numerous obligations to Thee; yea, with my whole heart I desire to be truly thankful for all the riches of thy grace, and all the bounties of thy providence, which thou hast bestowed upon me from the time I began to breathe the breath of life, to the present moment.

I lament and beseech Thee to forgive my unworthiness, and pray that I may act a wiser and better part for the time to come. May I live under an habitual sense of my dependence upon Thee my God, and always maintain such grateful love and reverence towards Thee, as shall engage me to obey thy will in all things, and to delight myself in a growing acquaintance with my duty, and a more faithful and cheerful practice of

it in all its branches. May I be daily improving in fervent piety towards Thee, my heavenly father, and in a cordial and extensive benevolence towards all my fellow-creatures. May I continually endeavour to prove myself the genuine disciple of Jesus Christ, by loving and doing good, as I have opportunity, to all around me; always keeping in mind the assurance which he gave to those who believed in him, that all men should know them to be his disciples by the love they cherished one towards another.

Give me grace, O thou great searcher of hearts, who requirest truth and sincerity in the secret recesses of the soul,—to be pure in heart—to walk circumspectly—and to maintain my integrity through the whole of my future life. Enable and dispose me to correct every evil habit and irregular propensity —to cleanse myself from all impurity both of flesh and spirit; and to advance and improve more and more in knowledge and virtue—in truth and holiness—in piety and entire devotedness to thy service.

But, O Thou father of the universe! I would not confine my prayers to myself, but most humbly beseech Thee to extend thy favour even to the remotest part of the

habitable earth. May the nations everywhere know, love, and obey Thee, the only living and true God, through Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. Be mindful, O Thou God of all compassion, of all that are in poverty, sorrow, trouble, or distress of any kind. I would sympathize with all under their several afflictions, and humbly recommend their different circumstances to Thee the Lord our God, praying that every afflictive dispensation of thy providence may be sanctified to them, and that in a short time Thou wouldest remove their sicknesses, and put an end to their sorrows.

Hear my prayer, most gracious God!—strengthen my weakness—supply my deficiencies—absolve me from my sins, and fulfil the desires of my heart as far as Thou seest it to be good for me. In Thee, O thou God of all benevolence! are all my hopes, both as to this and a future state. To Thee, therefore, my humble request is, that Thou wouldst guide me, by thy counsel, in all the varying circumstances of life, crown my righteous endeavours with thy blessing through the whole of my future days, and, finally, bring me to thy kingdom of glory above.

I ask all in the name and as the disciple of Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour, for whom I would be for ever thankful, and in the spirit of whose gospel I would ascribe, as being most justly due, unto Thee the only living and true God—the father of all in heaven and on earth—the fulness of all power, and the glory of infinite perfection, for ever.—*Amen.*

FIFTH ADDRESS.

O ALMIGHTY and eternal God! under a deep sense of thy adorable excellencies and perfections, and of my own insufficiency and insignificance, I would now adore, with all possible veneration, thine incomprehensible majesty and thy infinite perfections. To Thee I owe all that I am —all that I know—all that I possess, and all I can hope for. All the powers, capacities, and abilities of my mind—all the advantages of my nature—all my connections in social life—all the different relations in which I stand to Thee, to my fellow-creatures, and to every thing around me proceed from thy sovereign goodness, and bear testimony to thy adorable benevolence and compassion.

Thy mercies and benefits surround me on every side; they loudly call upon me to celebrate thy praise, and to give thanks unto Thee, O Thou most high.

Thou hast placed me in an enlightened part of the world, where I am surrounded with fellow-creatures, who know Thee as their God and father, from whom I derive

daily assistances and services, and with whom I may enjoy the sweets of union and friendship, the advantages and pleasures of social intercourse, and the delightful endearments of domestic life.

In that station, amidst thy immense empire which thou hast ordered and assigned me, I have never been overlooked or forgotten by Thee from the first moment of my existence. Thou hast been continually renewing thy mercies and thy favours, notwithstanding the inattention, ingratitude, and disobedience of which I have been guilty. Thou hast continued to me innumerable proofs of thy loving kindness and compassion, unworthy and sinful as I have been in thy sight. Thou hast acted to me as a God of unbounded goodness, who causest the sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendest rain on the just and on the unjust.

For every instance in which I have acted perversely and disobediently, I now desire to be truly penitent, and to humble myself before Thee, confessing and lamenting my folly in having neglected to avail myself of the opportunities I have enjoyed for improving in the knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the many advantages

I have been blessed with under the christian dispensation. I earnestly pray for thy pardon and forgiveness of every transgression of thy righteous and holy laws with which I have been chargeable.

May it please Thee, my God, to hear my humble supplication for grace to help in time to come. Bless me in all my future endeavours to enlighten my mind—to inform my understanding—to improve my heart—and to establish my feet in the way of thy commandments. I desire to increase, day by day, in religious knowledge and virtuous acquirements, until my heart becomes truly and entirely thine, and my views and desires are directed to Thee, my God, in all the habits of an uniform course of holy and cheerful obedience.

I implore thy aid to enable me to cultivate a sincere and tender affection for all my brethren of mankind. Hear my fervent prayers on their behalf. I desire to intercede before Thee, O Thou universal parent! for all those who are at a distance as well as those who are near me. I would include them all in the prayers I now offer up unto Thee, for the promotion of their best interests, both temporal and spiritual. I would rejoice in every privilege and

advantage they enjoy, in every blessing they possess, and all the progress they at any time make in wisdom and virtue—in liberty and happiness.

I would deeply lament before Thee the sad state of that great number of my brethren of mankind, who are still living in ignorance and darkness—groaning under the yoke of tyranny and despotism, and involved in vice and folly—in immorality and profaneness—and who know not Thee their God, nor Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. Give to all, gracious father! who teach the religion of thy son, an abundant share of wisdom, strength, and courage, that they may effectually promote the cause of genuine piety and righteousness in every part of the world. Relieve and comfort all those who labour under the burden of poverty, the agonies of sickness, or the pressure of disease, sorrow, affliction, and distress of whatever kind.

Grant, O Thou source and fountain of all consolation, that all may receive the support and assistance of which they severally stand in need; and do Thou make me an instrument in thy hand to diminish as much as lies in my power, the sum of human misery, and to increase the

amount of general happiness. Dispose me to contribute, to the extent of my abilities, to the improvement of mankind, in all that is virtuous, holy, amiable, and exemplary.

Finally, I would pray to Thee, my God! for my friends and relations,—my patrons and benefactors. May all that are near and dear to me pass their days calmly and happily, and, by a wise and contented improvement of thy blessings upon earth, be gradually preparing for another and higher enjoyment of them hereafter.

May it please Thee to hear and accept me in the prayers I have now offered up. May they contribute to increase my veneration, gratitude, and obedience to Thee, my heavenly Father; and my love, my charity, and benevolence to all around me. Thus may I be rendered worthy of my christian character, and act consistently with the precepts of Jesus Christ my ever honoured Lord and Saviour, for whom and for whose mission I desire to be for ever most truly and sincerely thankful, and agreeably to whose gospel I would now, with all possible veneration and homage, devoutly ascribe unto Thee, the only wise, ever-living, and true God! immortal honours, and universal praises.— *Amen.*

SIXTH ADDRESS.

O Lord God Almighty, the creator and preserver of all things visible and invisible! There is none supreme besides Thee, and to none but to Thee belongeth the greatness, the power, the glory, and the majesty for ever. Thou hast made me in thy own image, to contemplate thy works, and to show forth thy praise. I desire to acknowledge, with all possible gratitude, the gift of life, and to adore thy goodness in placing me in this part of thy glorious works. Wise and useful is the frame of my body; but much more noble the powers of my mind, by which I am enabled to discern and meditate upon the beauty of thy works, and the wonderful order of thy providence, and to attain to the knowledge and love of Thee, the maker of the world, and the author of all good.

I thank Thee that Thou hast implanted in me a sense of good and evil, together with the amiable affections of benevolence and compassion, leading me by these means to the admiration and love of goodness, and to the enjoyment of that

happiness which arises from the practice of virtue and true religion.

I thank Thee, O God, for the continued preservation of my life, for my food and raiment, and for all the blessings of friendship and society. I bless Thee that thy goodness to mankind is not confined to the present world; but that Thou hast awakened in me the pleasing hope of immortality, and, by various methods that seem good to thy unerring wisdom, art training me up for heaven and everlasting life.

Above all I praise Thee for the rich display of thy goodness in the manifestation of thy Son Jesus Christ, whom Thou didst raise up to bless mankind, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of sin to the worship, love, and obedience of Thee the true and living God.

I lament before Thee, my God! that I have ever been unmindful of thy goodness, and ungrateful to Thee, my continued benefactor,— that I have ever departed from the path of thy commandments, and exposed myself to thy righteous displeasure. Most earnestly do I implore pardon for every thing which thy pure and holy eyes have

seen amiss in my temper or conduct. O God! have mercy upon the work of thy hand—forgive me every sin I have been guilty of—turn away thy face from my iniquities, and blot out from the book of thy remembrance the offences and transgressions of which my conscience accuses me.

Grant me strength and resolution carefully to avoid, for the time to come, every evil and perverse way. Enable me to correct whatever is amiss in my temper and behaviour, and to delight in the practise of every thing virtuous and good. May my mind be enlightened with true wisdom. May I entertain just and worthy apprehensions of thy nature and providence, and possess a right understanding of that religion which is acceptable to Thee, and recommended to me in the gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ.

May I evermore discern, approve, and practise the things that are excellent: may my heart be endued with every good and pious disposition; so that all the great truths of religion may have a powerful and habitual influence in correcting and amending the irregularities of my life.

May I, at all times, reverence thy authority —look up to Thee with satisfaction and joy—love Thee with all my heart, and delight in thy testimonies. May I be truly thankful for thy numerous and undeserved mercies, confide in thy superintending and all-gracious providence, and yield an unreserved and uniform obedience to all thy holy laws and commandments.

In solem testimony of my good-will to all my brethren of mankind, I desire to offer up my humble supplication for the whole human race, beseeching Thee, the great and glorious parent of the universe! to vouchsafe thy mercy and favour to all, according to their several situations and circumstances. May all the kingdoms and families of the earth be speedily brought to the knowledge and pure worship of Thee, the only true God! May it please thee to put an end to all superstition and false notions of religion, and to enlarge the kingdom of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that kingdom of truth and righteousness which shall never have an end. May the spirit of persecution and error cease; and may truth and righteousness, peace and charity, every where abound.

I would humbly implore thy fatherly goodness in favour of all who are afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or outward condition. Be Thou, in thy great mercy, a father to the fatherless, the defender of the poor, and the widow's friend. Restore, I pray Thee, health to the sick—give ease to those that are in pain—comfort all that mourn, and deliver all that are persecuted, aggrieved, and oppressed.

O my God! I beseech Thee to hear, accept, and bless me in these my humble supplications, prayers, and intercessions. Graciously fulfil the desires of my heart, as far as may be most expedient for me in this life, and more especially for preparing me to experience thy mercy and favour for ever hereafter. And now unto Thee, the only wise, living and true God, the source of all my former mercies, and of all my present enjoyments—the God upon whom every future hope is dependent, both in time and for eternity—I would devoutly ascribe all honour, glory, blessing, and praise, for evermore.—*Amen*

SEVENTH ADDRESS.

O Almighty God! the eternal and self-existent Jehovah! Thou art exalted above all; and the adorations of the highest orders of celestial beings, and of the most glorious spirits which surround thy throne, are infinitely inferior to what Thou art most worthy of. Accept, I beseech Thee, the best tribute of honour, veneration, and praise, which my feeble powers will enable me to offer. Accept my sincere and devout acknowledgements of thy incomparable excellencies—the boundless extent of thy creating power—thy infallible wisdom, and thy inexhaustible goodness. I rejoice, O Lord! in all the manifestations of thy great glory, in the display of those perfections which are conspicuous in every part of the world which I inhabit, and in the whole universe.

But illustriously as thy attributes are exhibited in the works of creation, with more exceeding clearness do they shine in that revelation which Thou hast been pleased to make by thy well-beloved Son

Jesus Christ. His gospel leads us to an enlarged knowledge of Thee, my God!—gives me the liberty of free access to Thee, the creator of all things!—and teaches me to approach Thee, as a tender father, with sentiments of joy and filial confidence. I know, to the greatest satisfaction, that thou art my creator, my friend, my never-failing benefactor,—that Thou art ever present with me, and ever ready to guide, direct, and bless me.

Grant, I humbly beseech Thee, that the contemplation of thy perfections, and of my own obligations, may become every day more interesting and delightful to me. May they fill my mind, and elevate my heart, making me more and more devoted to Thee in the paths of holiness and obedience; inclining me to improve and advance in a blessed preparedness for that glorious state where I shall be enabled to know Thee better, and serve Thee with greater alacrity and delight, and where I shall enjoy everlasting happiness in the increased manifestations of thy divine and glorious perfections.

O thou sovereign Lord of the universe! may it please Thee to hear the prayers

which I would now address to Thee, in behalf of all my brethren of mankind. May thy light speedily and effectually enlighten all who are dead to truth and virtue. Mercifully put a stop to all tyranny, superstition, and error; and grant that true religion, virtue, and peace, may universally prevail and flourish, until all the nations of the earth shall be united under Christ, their common head, in piety, righteousness, and charity.

I would humbly intercede with Thee for all that are suffering under the pressure of poverty, sickness, pain, or sorrow of any kind. May all receive the assistance and support of which they stand severally in need, and obtain a happy release and deliverance from their troubles and distresses. May the happy time come when they shall see and acknowledge it to have been good for them to have been afflicted. May they experience such moral and spiritual improvement as may make it evident that the calamities they endured were blessings in disguise.

May all those who possess this world's goods delight in communicating of their abundance, as they have opportunity, to

those who are in want. May they always keep in mind that they are no other than stewards, answerable to Thee for the use they make of the advantages and comforts they enjoy; and, that in proportion as Thou hast given them more, the more and higher returns of gratitude, obedience, and love wilt Thou require at their hands.

Now unto Thee, the omnipotent, infinite, and eternal Jehovah! may there be ascribed all honour, glory, praise, and power, thanksgiving and blessing, henceforth and for evermore.—*Amen.*

EIGHTH ADDRESS.

O LORD, most holy, benevolent, righteous, and good! without beginning of days or e d of years! Thou dwellest in light inaccessible and full of glory. Thou art *He* whom no mortal eye hath seen or can see. Thou art great and greatly to be praised, and most worthy to be had in the highest reverence by all to whom Thou hast imparted the gift of existence.

All thy works praise Thee, O Lord! and I thy creature and thy child desire, with my whole heart, to extol and magnify thy holy name, and to speak of all thy marvellous works;—power, wisdom, and mercy are thine. Thou hast filled the earth with the riches of thy goodness. Thou hast ordained the sun, the moon and the stars to fulfil thy purposes of mercy—to preserve to us the constant and agreeable succession of day and night, summer and winter, seed-time and harvest. Thou art graciously pleased to prepare and ripen the various fruits which thy bountiful goodness and ever-flowing

benevolence have provided for the support of thy dependent creatures.

I, thy unworthy offspring, desire to praise and magnify thy holy name. I praise Thee O God! that thy goodness is not confined to the present world, but that Thou hast excited in thy creatures a pleasing hope of a future life; and hast taught them to expect and prepare for an immortality of glory and blessedness.

I rejoice in Thee as the God and Father of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! I would be for ever thankful for all the privileges and advantages conferred upon me by his gospel, and for all the animating prospects and encouragements to the love and practise of holiness and virtue which it contains. Well may I exclaim, O Lord my God! how unspeakable are my obligations to Thee! Bless the Lord, O my soul! and let all that is within me unite to adore and rejoice in thy goodness to me and to the whole world around me.

May it please Thee to forgive me, O thou God of mercy! that I have not been more sensible of my obligations—more grateful for thy goodness—and more attentive and diligent in the improvement of

the talents committed to my trust. Forgive me, O Lord! whatever has been sinful in my temper and conduct in any of the former part of my life; and may I be enabled to know and to do thy holy and righteous will in all respects for the time to come.

From a sense of gratitude may I devote myslf to Thee, the Lord my God! and walk before Thee in the punctual discharge of every duty that is incumbent upon me. May I increase more and more in fervent piety towards Thee, my God! in all the duties of self-government and temperance, and in all the principles of righteousness and benevolence. May every grace and virtue which constitute and adorn the christian character be nourished in my heart, govern my temper, and be habitually practised in my life—that I may be constantly growing in the divine likeness, and be preparing for enlarged enjoyments of thy favour here and hereafter.

Be graciously pleased to hear my prayers for all my brethren of mankind. Send the light of thy glorious gospel through every part of the habitable world; and, wherever it shines, may it be the means of spreading

not only knowledge and truth, but righteousness and peace amongst men. Grant, I beseech Thee, consolation and relief to those that are sick and afflicted—that are poor and in distress; and, from thy inexhaustible mercy, communicate to all according to their necessities and defects.

Conscious of my own weakness and insufficiency, I rejoice that I am permitted to hope, trust, and rely upon Thee, the all-sufficient God! the eternal source of life and hapiness! I would cheerfully leave myself and all my interests to the disposal of thy infinite wisdom and perfect goodness; praying that Thou wilt be my God and my guide—that I may be truly thy servant—diligently seeking thy favour through the whole of life—anxious to be found faithful, even unto death, and, finally be admitted to thy glorious presence and kingdom above.—There every thing that is imperfect will be done away—there I shall join my virtuous friends again—and there all will be love, harmony, and felicity, for evermore.—*Amen.*

NINTH ADDRESS.

O ALMIGHTY and eternal God! the Lord and giver of life, and of all the comforts and blessings which I have at any time enjoyed! I would devoutly contemplate the near relation in which I stand to Thee, and the good ground Thou hast afforded me to rely upon thy sustaining power and goodness. Of myself I am a weak, frail, and imperfect creature; but Thou art the most high God, whose wisdom, power, and goodness infinitely transcend our most exalted thoughts and conceptions. In Thee are all my hopes centered, and upon thy benignity and grace is all my dependence, both as to this world, and that which is to come.

May it be thy good pleasure, O Lord! to sanctify and bless me in all my desires and pursuits. May I evermore look upon Thee as my father, and my friend. Accept and bless me in the use and improvement of all my rights and privileges as a christian, that there may glow in my breast such an ardent flame of piety, manly, rational, and tempered with the sweetest charity, as may

produce all the sacred sentiments of reverential fear, humble resignation, steady reliance, and unchangeable love. Enable me to abound in all the duties of a cheerful obedience to Thee, as well as a tender and fervent charity to all around me, manifesting itself in the blessed fruits of sympathy, condescension, and kindness, and in the most useful acts and expressions of candour, compassion, meekness, humility, forbearance, and disinterested liberality. Grant that my mind may be raised above the allurements and terrors of all situations and circumstances here below, and habitually aspire after thy favour as what is more to be desired than all the treasures of the universe. O raise me to a superiority above every thing that this world can offer to my notice and regard;—may I feel inward tranquillity and self-possession, and enjoy that peace which the world can neither give nor take away.

Holy Father! while I thus adore Thee as the creator and ruler of the world, I would most humbly implore thy mercy in the pardon of all my past transgressions, and pray for thy strengthening grace for the time to come. I consider my dearest interests as depending upon thy mercy and favour, and in Thee would

I center all my hopes and cares for the future. Keep me safe under thy gracious protection, and let me ever esteem it the very worst of evils to forfeit thy favour, and to disqualify myself for thy merciful acceptance at the last.

Communicate to all mankind, blessed Lord! the benefits and advantages of the gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ. Since one is our Maker, may our hearts be one. Since we are all members of one great family, may we all unite in our endeavours to promote, as much as in us lies, the common interests of all our brethren. Dispose us to do all we can to recover the disobedient to their duty, and to retain and animate thy faithful servants in the discharge of the obligations under which Thou hast laid them. May all be brought to the love and practice of thy laws.—May they experience peace and hope in their death, and meet together in joy and gladness above, there to celebrate thy praises throughout endless ages of ever-growing happiness.

Accept, heavenly Father! my humble prayers for all those that are suffering under sickness, distress, sorrow, or pain of any kind. Whatever be their sorrows, it is in Thee, O Lord! and in Thee alone, they can

find relief. O do Thou remove their sufferings—heal all their diseases—restore their health—and so sanctify their troubles, that they may be for ever benefited by them. May they be convinced that Thou hast the kindest intentions in sending afflictions; and may they find that it was good for them to have tasted of the cup of grief.

May it seem good to thy divine Majesty to receive and accept this my sacrifice of prayer and praise, which in the sincerity of my heart I have been desirous to offer unto Thee. Answer and fulfil the desires of my heart as far as Thou seest it to be suitable and expedient for me. My humble trust is in that mercy of which Thou hast afforded us abundant proofs, and more especially manifested to us in the gospel of Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast appointed to instruct, enlighten, and save mankind; and in conformity to whose precepts I would now solemnly and devoutly ascribe unto Thee, the one only ever-living and true God! all honour and glory, blessing and praise, henceforth and for evermore.—*Amen.*

TENTH ADDRESS.

O Thou who art possessed of every adorable and amiable excellence, whose name is love, and who art able to do more and better for us than we can either ask or think! Do Thou condescend to allow us access to the throne of thy grace, and give ear to our humble supplications, prayers, praises, and intercessions. We behold the monuments of thy power—we trace the footsteps of thy wisdom—and every moment of our lives partakes of the riches of thy goodness; but it is not for us to compute the number of thy mercies, or to measure the extent of thy benignity and love.

I would praise Thee, O Lord! for the discoveries which Thou hast made of thyself in the works of creation and providence, and for thy goodness and loving-kindness to me and to all mankind. I thank Thee for all the noble and useful powers both of body and mind, with which Thou hast been pleased to endow me—for my continued preservation—for the rich provision Thou hast made to supply all my returning wants—for health and peace to enjoy the bounties of thy

providence—for every personal and social blessing—and for every agreeable and happy circumstance of my life.

With increased ardour of thankfulness would I bless and praise thy holy name for that stupendous instance of thy love, manifested in the means designed to rescue mankind from the dominion of sin in this world, and the dreadful penalties denounced against it hereafter. I thank Thee for those pure and enlightening doctrines which the gospel teaches, for the powerful motives it affords men to practise those rules of virtue and religion which it prescribes, and for all the alluring graces of an amiable and perfect example, exhibited in the life and conduct of our dear and honoured master. O Lord my God! who is able to enumerate all thy mercies? Who can estimate the extent of thy lovingkindness and mercy? Who can set forth and express all the praise to which Thou art most justly entitled? Do Thou write a law of love and habitual gratitude upon my heart, and grant that I may walk before Thee in holiness and righteousness all my days.

I would make it my humble prayer, that by daily and serious contemplation of thy works, and of the revelation of thy will in

the gospel of Jesus Christ, I may increase more and more in the knowledge of Thee, my God! attain more pure and worthy conceptions of thy nature and providence, and an habitual reverence for thy divine perfections. Under a serious sense of thy almighty power, may I fear thy displeasure as the worst of evils. From a full persuasion that Thou art perfectly wise and good, may I love Thee with all my heart, rejoice in thy universal government, and yield a cheerful obedience to all thy holy laws.

Dispose me to be faithful and affectionate to my friends—kind and condescending to my inferiors—obliging and respectful to those who are above me—patient and forbearing to my enemies—and just, upright, and good to all. May I put on the ornament of a meek, compassionate, and benevolent spirit, and may every generous and candid disposition be daily improving in my heart. Amidst all the trials, troubles, and vicissitudes of life, may I maintain a constant habit of self-government. In prosperity teach me to be humble, temperate, and charitable; in adversity to be patient and cheerfully resigned to thy unerring providence. Under all circumstances

ces may I be mindful how short my time must be in this world, and how soon I may be called to render an account of my stewardship before the tribunal which Thou hast ordained.

Mercifully regard, gracious God! the works of thy hand; and grant that thy holy name may be known, and thy pure worship prevail throughout the earth. Grant that all people, nations, and languages may know, love, and obey Thee, the only true God, agreeably to the instructions of Jesus Christ our Lord. Subdue, in every place, the spirit of persecution, idolatry, and superstition, and cause liberty and peace, charity and candour, wisdom and goodness, everywhere to abound. Let christians everywhere perfectly understand of what spirit they are.

I would most humbly commend to thy fatherly kindness all those who are in any respect or degree afflicted, troubled, or distressed. Comfort and relieve them agreeably to their several necessities;—ease their pains—mitigate their sorrows—lighten their burdens—and, in the shortest time that the wise and holy laws by which Thou governest all things will allow, grant them a full, entire, and most

happy deliverance out of their tribulations and sufferings.

I would also implore mercy and forgiveness for all those who are regardless of their own welfare, and look not unto Thee, O God! for succour and support.

O turn the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just. Soften the hardness of the obdurate and insensible, and give sight to the spiritually blind. Endue us all with strength of mind, and resolution to break off our sins by true repentance. Let the careless sinner turn to Thee with deep contrition and repentance, and reinstate in thy favour all those who are anxious to be reconciled unto Thee, and to devote themselves henceforth to thy service.

Accept me, O my God! in these my humble addresses to the throne of thy mercy. Grant my petitions and requests, as far as they are consistent with the tenor and design of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And unto Thee, the Lord God Omnipotent! be honour and glory, thanksgiving and praise, for ever.—*Amen.*

ELEVENTH ADDRESS.

ETERNAL ruler of the skies! whose will is uncontroulable—whose power none are able to withstand! Thou formest the light and createst darkness. Thou givest life and Thou takest it away. Thou raisest one and puttest down another—either of the nations, the families, or the individuals of mankind, as seemeth good in thy sight. There is no power in nature but what emanates from Thee. There is no principle of action but what has its source in Thee. Thy providential goodness guides and directs every occurrence and event.

O let me be assured that my pains and sufferings, my fears and apprehensions, are good for me; and though for the present they are not joyous, but grievous, they will hereafter manifest thy goodness, and yield to me abundant felicity and joy. Make me to know and feel that Thou art good. Let me be persuaded that every dark cloud must finally vanish—every perplexing and awful scene must brighten—and everything that happens in any part of

thy works must prove thy power to be irresistible—thy wisdom infinite—and thy goodness unchangeable and perfect.

Grant, O Lord! that this conviction may fill my breast with consolation—animate my obedience to thy holy and righteous will—and enable me habitually to possess a placid and cheerful resignation to thy good will and pleasure, even under the most distressing circumstances in which I may be placed. Reconcile me to thy appointments even in death itself, and support me under whatever I may suffer from its approaches. Bless me, O Lord! in the improvement of the privileges and promises which I enjoy, so that I may happily acquire and maintain a spirit of true devotion, and both see and adore thy providential goodness in every event. May it henceforward be my constant desire and most earnest endeavour to enlarge and strengthen this heavenly temper, by a diligent and conscientious use of all the appointed means of grace.

Enable me, good God! to attain such a settled habit of piety and holiness, as shall render me superior to all the corruptions that are in the world—make every duty

easy and delightful—and support me in a sincere and uninterrupted perseverance in all that is acceptable in thy sight. O that I may be found, at the last, prepared and qualified to enter upon another and better life, and to be for ever happy in the enjoyment of thy eternal love and favour. May I finally partake of that bliss and glory to which Thou hast advanced Jesus the captain of my salvation, who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross despising the shame of it.

May it please Thee, almighty God! to enlighten the whole world with thy truth, with the saving knowledge of thyself and of thy Son Christ Jesus. May the hearts of all who profess themselves christians, be filled with that fervent habitual piety, which shall produce the warmest benevolence towards all around them. May those who occupy the highest rank in society shine with distinguished honour as the best friends and most effectual promoters of truth and virtue. May the ministers of religion be animated with a sincere and steady zeal for the truth, and be abundantly successful in their endeavours to promote it. Have compassion upon all who are in

poverty, in affliction, sorrow, or distress of any kind—upon all who suffer persecution for conscience sake, or that bend under the yoke of tyranny, oppression, and slavery. Visit them with the sweet consolations of thy reviving aid according to their several circumstances and necessities. Support them under all their trials, sanctify their afflictions to themselves and all connected with them, and grant them effectual deliverance as soon as is consistent with the wise and gracious purposes for which Thou didst afflict them.

Favourably accept me in the duty which I have now endeavoured to perform. Bless it to me as a means of enlivening and strengthening within me all the habits of piety and benevolence; and grant that my future conduct may testify my continual increase in that gratitude and obedience which are ever due to Thee, my God! and in that universal goodwill which I desire ever to manifest towards all my fellow-creatures. By a steady and diligent perseverance in the path of duty through the whole course of life, may I be preparing for that glorious

state in which I shall be able to know Thee better, and serve Thee with superior alacrity and delight.

And now unto Thee, the eternal creator, the father and the friend of all, I devoutly and reverently ascribe, as being most justly due, all honour and glory, blessing and praise, for evermore.—*Amen.*

TWELFTH ADDRESS.

Lord of heaven eternal! the everflowing and inexhaustible fountain of all being, blessedness, and perfection! Thou art a pure and spiritual existence. Proofs of thy unceasing energy I perceive on every side, and know that I am surrounded continually by thy almighty power and godhead. Thou passest by me on every side, though I behold Thee not;—thou continually workest wonders on the right hand and on the left. Thou art a spirit, and they who would worship Thee acceptably must worship Thee in spirit and in truth. I, thy unworthy creature, desire to celebrate thy perfections with this disposition, and to offer unto Thee the tribute of my humble and devout worship.

I entreat Thee to pardon and forgive me for having been unmindful of thy perfections and the displays of thy glory; and that I have not been more grateful for those innumerable mercies and blessings which have been bestowed upon me. In particular I pray Thee to forgive me for

every instance in which I have either neglected or misimproved thy grace and goodness under the gospel dispensation, and in whatever respects I have transgressed any of thy wise and righteous commandments. I condemn myself for every act of ingratitude and disobedience of which I have been guilty, and pray that for the time to come I may faithfully endeavour to correct my temper, and reform my life, in all cases in which I have acted unworthily of my character as a christian, and unsuitably to the invaluable advantages by which I am distinguished.

Grant me wisdom to make it from henceforth my constant desire and endeavour to know and to do thy holy and righteous will in all things. May I habitually regard Thee as ever present with me; and lift up my heart to Thee with feelings of the lowest abasement and the profoundest veneration. From the contemplation of thy works and the study of the holy scriptures, may I daily increase in the knowledge and love of Thee, my God! May I attain to more worthy, pure, and perfect conceptions of thy divine nature and providence—pay a constant attention to the

rules of thy moral government, and so approve myself in thy sight that I may enjoy thy favour here and be qualified for the everlasting enjoyment of it in another and better world.

Dispose me to make it my constant care to keep my heart with all diligence—to watch over all my thoughts, as well as my words and actions—to cultivate truth and sincerity in the inmost recesses of my mind, as well as in my outward conduct and behaviour—to cherish a meek and quiet spirit, and preserve myself holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sin and sinners. May I endeavour by such means to imitate my blessed Lord and Saviour, who went about doing good, and devoted himself wholly and unreservedly to a life of piety and benevolence.

O that the same mind may be in me as was in him; and that after having proved myself his true and faithful follower here on earth, I may at length be owned as his disciple in those happy regions where sin and sorrow never enter, but all is love, harmony, and happiness, peace and joy for evermore.

My humble intercession I would offer unto Thee in behalf of all my brethren of mankind. May true religion, as it was taught by my great master, and exemplified in his life and character, be continually extending its influence in every part of the world. Let all tyranny and persecution come to an end, and idolatry, ignorance and superstition, give way to the benign influence of truth and knowledge, peace and liberty; that all the nations whom Thou hast made may come to worship and obey Thee the one only everliving and true God without controul or restraint; and love and esteem each other as brethren of the same common father.

May those in whose hands power is entrusted for the benefit of others be scrupulously careful to exercise it for that purpose. May justice be everywhere administered without partiality or respect of persons. May it be easy for the injured to obtain redress for the wrongs they may sustain, and may this facility dispose them to lay aside every thought of retaliation and resentment.

Give efficacy to the words of those who counsel and exhort in thy name, and as the

ambassadors of Jesus Christ. May they be able to speak to the hearts of their people, and make the impression upon them which an anxious desire to serve them in the most essential manner prompts them to attempt. May the best understanding everywhere subsist between the teacher and those who stand in need of instruction. May they mutually concur to render each other's labours agreeable and efficacious.

Extend thy merciful regards to all those who are in distress of any kind. Alleviate their sufferings—soften their sorrows—assuage their pains—and sanctify thy dispensations to them. Give them patience to bear and wisdom to convert their present sufferings to their future and everlasting good.

Excite in the breasts of such as enjoy the great blessing of health, a tender sympathy for their afflicted brethren, and incline them to exert their best endeavours for their amendment and recovery.

To Thee, O Lord! I now commit myself, and all in whose welfare I am interested. Dispose them and me truly to love and faithfully to obey Thee through the whole of future life; and, in the last

and closing periods of it, may we enjoy cheerful reflections on thy benignity and goodness, and on the use and improvement we have made of the talents confided to us, and the blessings by which we have been distinguished.

And now unto Thee the Omnipotent Sovereign of universal nature—the one uncreated self-existing and eternal God! may there be ascribed by all thy creatures, in all places of thy dominion, glory and honour, praise, thanksgiving, and blessing, for evermore.—*Amen.*

THIRTEENTH ADDRESS.

O JEHOVAH, king of glory! who art infinite, eternal, and unchangeable! with all possible veneration, love, and gratitude, would I now bow down before Thee, and pour out my soul in humble supplication and grateful praise. From the earth on which I dwell to the heavens above, even to the heaven of heavens where is thy supreme throne, all worlds obey Thee. From the dust on which I tread to the seraphim in thy presence, all creatures willingly or unwillingly execute thy purposes, and contribute to thy glory. Thy kingdom, O Lord! is unlimited and undivided, extending throughout immensity, and enduring throughout all ages. Thou reignest, and the inhabitants of the earth who fear not Thee have cause to tremble; but the righteous may be glad and rejoice in Thee, for Thou art a righteous Lord, and lovest righteousness.

Merciful Father! may my heart be filled with such sentiments of grateful admiration and reverence, as shall uniformly prompt

me to unwearied diligence in the practice of all thy holy laws and precepts. May I freely yield all my powers to thy divine influence, and earnestly endeavour to love Thee, my God! with all my heart, with all my mind, and with all my strength. May I also love my neighbour as myself, looking upon all mankind as subjects of the same king, and children of the same family. And may I always regard the miseries of others as a motive to the kind and liberal exertion of all my powers for their assistance and relief, and never esteem myself so happy as when I have it in my power to promote the comfort and happiness of my fellow-creatures.

Whilst I am thus striving to discharge faithfully every part of my duty to Thee, the sovereign ruler of the universe! may I cheerfully consider every event as under thy immediate guidance and direction. May I lay aside all anxiety as to future events, and rejoice in the consolations of a good conscience. Under every affliction and trial may my heart be revived by the thought that thence my sorrows come whence all my blessings flow.

Blessed Father! grant that my faith and hope may ever remain unshaken; and may

the language of my soul under the heaviest affliction ever be, "It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth to him good." "Not my will, but thine, O Lord! be done." May I be anxious for nothing that relates to this transitory world only, but in every thing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, make known my requests to Thee, my God! and may that peace which passeth all understanding, and which Thou alone canst give, keep my heart and mind free from every perturbation and disquiet, and from every feeling incompatible with the temper and state of mind recommended in the gospel of Jesus Christ my Saviour.

In every part of the world be Thou pleased, gracious God! to diffuse the knowledge of thyself. May the universal belief of thy sole and supreme godhead remove from the earth every vestige of idolatry and superstition, and substitute in their place the pure worship of thy divine Majesty, and a ready cheerful obedience to thy statutes and commandments. May the nations of the world experience the great blessing of free and upright government, live under the wisest and most salutary laws, and witness the most unlimited and impartial administration of justice.

Pour out a spirit of liberality upon the rich and powerful, and of contentment, peaceableness, and gratitude upon the lower classes of society. Grant that all mankind may enjoy uninjured and unimpaired the rights and privileges that belong to them, as thy rational creatures; that none may presume to encroach upon the just liberties of others, or seek to violate those principles of religious and civil freedom, of which the constitution of their nature shows that all are entitled to a reasonable and equitable share.

Let the humble moans of the afflicted and distressed attract thy merciful notice; and do Thou stretch forth thy hand to alleviate the burdens they endure, and to accomplish for them a speedy and effectual relief from their sufferings.

Most mighty God! in mercy accept this my earnest prayer. May my devotions be sanctified to me, and become happily instrumental to increase my piety and enlarge my benevolence. May I feel myself more and more devoted to Thee, more and more disposed and willing to surrender myself to the disposals of thy providence. May I be wholly thine both in life and in death, and may the slumber of the grave lead to a

blessed resurrection to glory, honour, and immortality.

Unto Thee, the first and greatest, the wisest and best of beings, may there be rendered praise and adoration, thanksgiving and blessing from all thy creatures, both now and through the unceasing and infinite ages of eternity.—*Amen.*

FOURTEENTH ADDRESS.

Lord God Almighty! who rulest with undoubted sway over every part of thy infinitely extended works. Bow down thy ear to the supplications of me thy creature, who am perfectly dependant upon Thee, and every moment indebted to Thee for life and breath, and all that I possess. Continue to me thy accustomed benignity—feed me with food convenient and suitable for me—and preserve me from excess of every kind. Let not such abundance be my portion as would estrange my soul from Thee, and in the great profusion of thy gifts lead me to forget the giver. Preserve me too from that poverty and destitution which might tempt me to set thy laws at defiance, and violate the rights of my fellow-creatures.

Whatever portion or degree of happiness I shall ever enjoy in this world will be the effect of thy free and unconstrained bounty. I am indebted to thy mercy for the gift of reason, and for all the superior faculties by which I am distinguished from other

creatures around me, that I am made capable of knowing, loving, and obeying Thee, of enjoying thy favour here, and being happy for ever in thy kingdom of glory hereafter. Adored be thy goodness! that as a reasonable creature I am made capable of the duties of religion, and of being the subject of thy moral government, that as a christian I enjoy the benefit and advantage of a revelation from above, by which I have my interest and my duty as well as the means of my happiness set before me in the clearest light and with the greatest certainty.

O that I may faithfully endeavour to make a diligent use of all the advantages and privileges I enjoy; that I may set the highest value upon the gospel, and love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Grant that I may daily grow in the knowledge of thy will and of the truth as it is in Jesus. May I form and execute the most deliberate purpose of conforming my life entirely to its precepts. May I be delivered from all slavish and abject principles, and from all narrow and ungenerous sentiments, loving what Thou approvest and growing in wisdom and true goodness.

Give me strength to govern my temper —to attain a meek and peaceable spirit— to be modest, charitable, and heavenly minded. May my moderation and benevolence be extended through the whole of my future life, so that all my conduct, as well as all my future conversation, may be worthy of my christian character. Dispose me to act consistently with my engagements and professions as the disciple of a meek and holy Lord and Saviour, who has taught us to love and obey Thee as the father of spirits—the fountain of everflowing and inexhaustible benignity—and as a God of perfect purity, rectitude, and truth.

Grant that I may diligently labour to acquaint myself still more and more with Thee, that I may gain a more perfect knowledge of thy adorable perfections by the study of thy works, and by a deeper insight into the genuine meaning of every part of the records of revealed truth, so that I may habitually possess an awful sense of thy glorious excellencies, and love and honour Thee with truly rational and devout affections, possessing a calm, steady, and invigorating principle of piety, and offering unto Thee the tribute of a pure heart and a holy good life.

Incline my heart to a readiness to forgive even my worst enemies, praying for them and conducting myself towards them in the spirit of true christian candour and charity. May I be willing to do good to all as I have opportunity; and study to be useful and exemplary in whatever situation or circumstances I may be placed. And may it be a most effectual motive to this, that by so doing I shall imitate the pattern set me by my revered Lord and Master Jesus Christ. O grant that like him too I may take a pleasure in going about doing good, and improving every opportunity of encouraging truth and virtue as he did, considering it the end for which he was sent into the world, and the work which he rejoiced when he had finished.

In obedience to his commands, I would offer unto Thee my humble intercession in behalf of all my brethren of mankind. Visit them, O Lord! with the light and knowledge of thy truth; bring them into the way of life, salvation, and happiness, by making known to them the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of thy love. May christians study to resemble their Master, and both to be good and to do good continually; may they

be unwearied in acts of kindness, compassion, and benevolence, and in their endeavours to promote as much as in them lies the welfare and happiness of all around them.

Enlighten the ministers of thy holy truth with a just knowledge of the religion they undertake to teach others. Remove from them the impediments which may stand in the way of their overcoming the prejudices they have imbibed, and inspire them with courage to avow the convictions which they feel. Let the dew of thy heavenly blessing descend upon all congregations of thy worshipping people in all places. Pour out a spirit of true piety upon every member of them, and let them be particularly distinguished as the disciples of Jesus Christ by the harmony, union, concord, and love that prevail among them.

Pity, good God! and relieve all that are in affliction and sorrow; all that are in pain and suffering, distress of mind or body, from whatever cause. Communicate to them the support and consolation of which they stand in need. Grant more especially that the troubles they now endure may be the means of securing their eternal interests, and qualifying them for more exalted seats in the realms of glory.

Shower down thy choicest blessings upon all who are near and dear to me—my relations and friends—my patrons and benefactors. Reward all those who have done or wished me good; and as I have received freely from them, may I be disposed freely to impart to others.

Endue me with a right and becoming frame of mind towards all my fellow-creatures; to those more particularly who have been hostile to me and designedly obstructed my welfare and success in life. I beseech Thee, O God! to turn their hearts and to forgive them all their sins and offences.

Show thyself to be a father to the fatherless and the widow's God—a very present help to all in time of adversity—a refuge to the forlorn and forsaken—and a friend of those who know no friend on earth.

These my imperfect addresses to Thee, the eternal, infinite, and inexhaustible fountain of all happiness! I would now conclude with humbly committing myself and all my affairs into thy hands, entreating Thee, O Lord, my heavenly Father! to take me under thy special care and protection—to guard me against all future dangers—to strengthen

me against every surrounding temptation and trial—to preserve me from every real evil—and to cause all things to work together for my final good.

To Thee the supreme Sovereign of all worlds! the one only wise, living, and true God! be all honour, praise, thanksgiving, and blessing, for ever.—*Amen.*

FIFTEENTH ADDRESS.

Eternal Father! Lord of all consolation and grace! the supreme and uncontrouled disposer of all events! with sincerity of heart and deep humility of soul I would now lift up the voice of prayer and supplication unto Thee, and implore thy gracious and unceasing care. I desire to be found frequent in my prayers, in my praises, and thanksgiving to Thee the Lord my God! to acknowledge both my own great helplessness and insufficiency and my entire dependance upon Thee.

It highly becomes me with joy and gratitude to worship, serve, and obey Thee as the author of all good—to give thanks to thy holy name for ever—to devote myself unreservedly to Thee in the paths of righteousness, piety, and peace.

Forgive me, O my God! that I have not been more constant and frequent in the exercises of devotion, and more uniform and regular in my obedience. Forgive me that my heart has been at any time inattentive to my obligations to Thee my heavenly Father!

whom I am bound by every tie to honour, love, and obey. I would condemn myself for every transgression of thy holy and righteous laws—for every neglect of duty—for every degree of lukewarmness and indifference of which I have been guilty.

I beseech Thee, O thou God of mercy, to pardon my sins, to blot out all my transgressions, and to accept me as one who is sincerely solicitous to be reconciled to Thee by true repentance and amendment. O may I never more be chargeable with ingratitude or disobedience, but may all my future life be consistent with my obligations, hopes, and expectations: may I be ever duly mindful of the returns I owe to Thee for thy continual and unwearied benignity, and may my heart never reproach me so long as I live for my insensibility and ingratitude.

May I, with humble confidence, consider myself as heir to those exceeding great and precious promises delivered in the gospel. Strengthen my faith that it may have a more invigorating influence over my future conduct. May my obedience be such as shall increase and promote my reliance upon Thee, my God! and grant that the joy

arising from this source may animate my obedience, and confirm my hopes and prospects, as to another world, until I shall be happily matured to a blessed fitness for thy glorious presence.

O take me in mercy to those blessed regions where all is joy, harmony, and ever-growing felicity, such as it is not possible for the human heart to conceive, but what is assuredly prepared for all that truly love Thee and keep thy commandments. Be graciously attentive to the wants and necessities of all that are in poverty, sorrow, or distress of any kind. Incline me to sympathize with them under their several afflictions; and to be at all times willing to assist, as far as lies in my power, to alleviate the burdens under which they labour. Impart gladness to the mourners in every region of the earth; give them the oil of rejoicing instead of sorrow, and the clothing of praise instead of the spirit of heaviness.

Fulfil the desires and petitions which I now present unto Thee, O thou God of my life and the lengthener out of my days! The government of the whole universe and

all its affairs is entirely in thy hands. Thy dominion is supreme—thy power unlimited—and the glory of thy perfections and adorable attributes is from everlasting to everlasting.

Blessing and praise, thanksgiving, glory, and honour, be ascribed to Thee for ever and ever.—*Amen.*

SIXTEENTH ADDRESS.

Most glorious and holy Lord God Almighty! Thou art the confidence and joy of every virtuous creature to whom Thou hast made thyself known. Thou preservest all nature in existence, and maintainest the beauty and order of all thy works. Righteous is thy government, and most faithful is thy word. Thy providence watches over all with unceasing care; and all thy commands are upright, just, and good.

I desire to render unto Thee, O Thou most glorious and ever merciful God! my sincere thanks for the manifold blessings I have continually received at thy hands; nor would I acknowledge them with ardent gratitude only, but with earnest and hearty purposes of acting agreeably to them. Thou hast exercised a wise and gracious guardianship over me from the beginning of that life which thy goodness at first bestowed, and which thy mercy has thus far continued unto me. By Thee my wants have been supplied—from Thee all my

enjoyments have proceeded, and Thou still crownest my days with loving-kindness and tender mercy.

I thank Thee, O Lord! for the gift of reason, and all the treasures of knowledge Thou hast opened to my view—that Thou hast formed me for the practice of religion—that Thou hast given me so many opportunities for the cultivation of my mind, and the attainment of my true happiness—that Thou hast endowed me with social affections, and placed me in a social state where I can enjoy a variety of pleasures from the friendly and assiduous attentions of my brethren.

To thy goodness I ascribe all the present consolations and joys, of what I humbly trust is a sincere though defective holiness. I thank Thee, good God! for the various dispensations of thy providence in favour of religion, and for the means used to promote the happiness of mankind in the several ages of the world. But above all, I praise and bless thy holy name for the exceeding riches of thy grace in Jesus Christ my Lord! whom Thou hast sent to declare thy holy will unto mankind—to lead us by his heavenly instructions and

excellent example to the love and practice of universal goodness—to assure us of pardon and acceptance upon repentance and newness of life—to lay before us the awful solemnities of a future judgment, and to confirm to us the joyful hope of glory, honour, and immortality.

Great cause hast Thou given me to rejoice that though our holy religion has been corrupted, and its divine light darkened, I now possess so many advantages for knowing the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, and that I still enjoy my christian privileges, none making me afraid. I regret, O Lord! that I have not always been mindful of those privileges nor improved them as I ought to have done. I have, alas! too often departed from the holy commandments delivered to me, and neglected the divine injunctions which I have received. I have disregarded the great example set before me and the precious promises to which I have been called. My only hope is in thy mercy, and in that mercy Thou hast encouraged me to hope.

Save me, Lord! I most earnestly pray, from the dominion of the unworthy habits I have contracted. Give me power to

triumph over the influence of them, and enable me in the future course of my life to act agreeably to the professions I have made, and the desires which I now cherish. Let me be deeply impressed with a sense of thy continual presence; and as I value thy favour and dread thy displeasure, let me abstain from every forbidden indulgence and gratification.

To thy most merciful protection, heavenly Father! I would now commend myself, my friends, and all my fellow-creatures, beseeching Thee to do for me and for them abundantly more and better than I am able to express; for Thou art the omniscient and all-sufficient God, who art intimately acquainted with the wants and necessities of all thy creatures, and possessed of all power to grant them the assistance and support of which they stand in need.

And now unto Thee the only wise, living, and true God! be honour and glory, thanksgiving, blessing, and praise, for evermore.—*Amen.*

SEVENTEENTH ADDRESS.

O Thou who rulest over all, supreme and unrivalled! to Thee I am indebted for the existence I enjoy, and for all the means which conduce to render that existence a blessing and a comfort to me. If I continue in life, and experience happiness from its prolongation, it is because Thou continuest to take care of me. May I never forget how incessantly I am dependant upon Thee, and how utterly impossible it is to possess any thing but what is the free and gracious gift of thy bounty.

Thou didst cause me to enter into life, and at thy word I was created. It is thy will that I should continue to exist. All my capacities and powers are derived from Thee; and were thy sustaining hand withdrawn but for a moment, I should return to the dust from which I was originally taken.

Most adorable art Thou, O God! in the display of thy perfections to all thy intelligent creation! The eyes of all are upon Thee, and Thou givest them their food in due season. Thou continuest the wonderful order that reigns in the universe,

and which promotes the welfare of every individual. Thou causest the glorious luminary of the day to shine, and it diffuses light, and heat, and plenty over the face of the earth. Thou givest being to innumerable plants, trees, and animals for the use of mankind; and providest every thing necessary to render those who live in conformity to thy laws easy and happy.

From day to day Thou fosterest in me that spark of spiritual and divine life which raises me to a superiority over the beasts that perish, which assimilates me to angels and unites me to thyself. Every day Thou conferrest favours and blessings upon me and upon all the children of men. Without Thee I should be destitute of all power to contribute to my own comfort and well-being, and the fairest prospects that I might imagine were before me, would fade away and be for ever lost.

Accept then, O thou Creator and Father of all! my sincere thanks, that in bestowing upon me this dignified existence, Thou hast given me an opportunity of raising my mind to Thee and of rejoicing in the thought of Thee and of thy universal government. Exalted indeed is the honour

of being made capable of holding communion with Thee, and of laying before Thee the wants and wishes—the desires and necessities of my soul.

But, O Lord my God! how are my obligations to adore, to love, to praise, and rejoice in Thee elevated and increased, when I contemplate thy rich grace and goodness to myself and to mankind in and through Jesus Christ, and all the precious treasures of thy grace and mercy revealed in his gospel! Blessed forever be thy holy name that he has pointed out in the clearest manner the path of truth, of virtue, and happiness, so that all may know Thee their father to be the only true and living God, merciful, lenient, and kind even to the greatest of sinners; and when they repent and amend, ready to forgive their offences and to receive them again into favour.

Grant most gracious God! that all men may be brought to imitate the example of Jesus Christ—to imbibe his spirit—and to resemble him in a sincere and unaffected piety to Thee, and an unbounded benevolence to all their brethren. Incline the hearts of all to make his gospel the

constant rule of their conduct, and to take him for their instructor, their master, and their guide.

May it please Thee, O God! to increase and strengthen the faith of all mankind in this heavenly dispensation. Grant that it may become a more active principle, and render all men more fruitful in good works, that the kingdom of the Messiah may be enlarged and extended to the utternost parts of the earth, and all may know, love, and obey Thee from the greatest unto the least. May christianity be free from all superstition and error, and from every thing that has tended to deform its native excellence and beauty.

Grant that in every nation those who are invested with civil authority may exercise it in thy fear and to thy glory. May they be men of integrity, hating covetousness, disposed to administer justice in mercy, and without respect of persons. Bless the ruling powers in this my native land—preserve them within the limits of their duty—and let them be ever mindful of the solemn account they must one day give before the judgment seat of Christ.

Clothe the public ministers of religion with the robes of righteousness, purity, and truth. Enable them to proceed in their sacred office with indefatigable industry and perseverance, and crown their labours of love with the happiest and most extensive success.

Hear the humble prayers I would offer unto Thee on behalf of all my suffering fellow-creatures. All their pains, their griefs, their sighs and sorrows are perfectly known to Thee: to Thee, therefore, in humble and cheerful reliance on thy providential goodness, I would now offer my earnest intercession for their relief, and I desire to express on their account those humble requests, which it would become me to offer for myself were I in their situation. In every place may sadness and mourning give place to gratitude and joy —to thanksgiving and praise.

To Thee the great eternal fountain of all good—the bounteous bestower of every good and perfect gift! may the most exalted praises be ascribed by all thy creatures henceforth and for evermore.—*Amen.*

EIGHTEENTH ADDRESS.

O Lord! Thou art God, even Thou alone, a God of almighty power, unsearchable wisdom and perfect goodness! Thou possessest in thyself every excellence that is attractive of the love and reverence of every reasonable creature. Thou hast an original, independent, and unalienable right, not only to the government of this world and to the direction and conduct of all human affairs, but to universal sway and dominion. As the clay in the hands of the potter, so are we in thy hands—to do with us as seemeth good in thy sight.

It is happy for me, O thou Father of mercies! that I am under thy government, for the laws and statutes of thy kingdom are the result of perfect wisdom and benevolence; and the rewards which Thou hast set before thy rational offspring are intended to promote the peace, order, and happiness of all. When clouds and darkness appear to surround Thee, and the ways of thy providence are involved and intricate, I would still maintain the most high and

honourable thoughts of Thee, and ever repose an humble placid confidence in thy power and mercy. Thy truth and faithfulness are from everlasting to everlasting to them that fear thy name, who love Thee with their hearts and souls, and keep thy commandments.

Under the influence of these religious sentiments I would now offer my humble addresses unto Thee the Lord my God! who art good to all, and rich in mercy to all who call upon Thee in truth. As a citizen and member of the christian community, I would pray for Jews and Gentiles and for all that have erred from the true faith of thy holy gospel, entreating Thee to bring them speedily to the knowledge of Thee, the only true God, and of Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.

Grant O God! that the purity of the christian faith and worship may be accompanied with the greatest purity of heart and life, and with the practice of every virtue among all classes, ranks, and orders of society. May they be careful to walk as children of the light, and conscientiously endeavour to let it appear in their lives that the fear of God rules in their heart—that it

is a rational, uniform, and animating principle—and that it consists in humility and rectitude of spirit—in purity of heart—in heavenly dispositions and devout affections.

I humbly beseech Thee, the great Governor of the world! that Thou wilt extend the borders of the Saviour's kingdom, and that idolatry, superstition, and tyranny may for ever cease. May the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, and may the just and upright be everywhere established. Put an end to oppression and persecution in every form and degree. May the rights of private judgment be everywhere maintained and secured; and may men be allowed to follow the dictates of their own unbiassed reason without molestation or injury in the smallest respect.

Pity and sustain, gracious God! all who are afflicted or distressed. Hasten the time when those who mourn and sit in sackcloth shall be comforted; and when those who are now borne down by oppression and sorrow shall be relieved and restored. Convert to the lasting benefit of the souls of thy people the pains, and sorrows to which Thou renderest them

subject in this mortal life. Out of the furnace of affliction may they come forth purified and refined, and walk henceforward before Thee in the practice of all piety, virtue, and goodness.

May the rulers of the world be men of justice and generosity, divesting themselves of all sinister, corrupt, and unworthy motives, and judging righteous judgment. May they learn to temper the severity of law with equity and mercy, and be anxious to make government appear in the eyes of all, what it was designed to be—an ordinance of Thee, the eternal Ruler! for the promotion of the highest and best interests of men upon the earth.

Arm the ministers of thy word with the weapons of holy eloquence and rational persuasion. Enable them to wield with effect the sword of the spirit, and protect them from every evil by the helmet of salvation. Inspire those whom it is their duty to instruct with the warmest zeal for religion that is consistent with knowledge and charity. Make them emulous of being distinguished for their ardour, unanimity, and mutual good-will.

Enable the aged to avoid the sins and failings which frequently accompany advanced years. Raise their minds to the contemplation of the felicity that awaits the patient sufferer of pain and decay. Grant them fortitude to meet the approach of death without alarm or apprehension; and when the concluding scene of all earthly concerns arrives, may they calmly resign their spirits into thy hands as into the hands of a faithful and gracious creator.

Preserve the young from the influence of those passions and desires which if indulged must bring a stain upon their character, and unfit them for the proper discharge of the duties of maturer age. Grant them strength of mind to reject the advice which would degrade and dishonour them; and incline their hearts to the love and cultivation of every virtue that will render them useful, worthy, and amiable in life.

Hear me, O thou God of love! in these my imperfect prayers and praises. May thy blessing attend and sanctify to me this my humble attempt to perform a necessary duty, that it may be the means of establishing my feet in the path of truth and virtue, that I may finally attain to thy kingdom

of joy and glory, and be made eternally happy with Thee and with all thy chosen and approved servants for evermore.

And now unto Thee the God of peace, the God and Father of Jesus Christ, and of all mankind! I would ascribe unfeigned and everlasting praises.—*Amen.*

NINETEENTH ADDRESS.

O Thou eternal and inexhaustible source, whence flow the streams of light and life which diffuse themselves throughout all worlds, and all the different orders of beings! Thou art the supreme disposer of every event—the father and friend, the benefactor and preserver of all thy creatures. Loudly as all nature proclaims this to me, I am still more distinctly and fully taught to consider Thee under these gracious and consolatory relations by Jesus Christ thy Son, my Saviour and Redeemer.

O Lord! I earnestly pray that so kind a Father, so good a God as Thou art, may possess my whole heart with all the love, reverence, and admiration which I am capable of cherishing. Ever may I cheerfully submit to all thy dispensations, knowing that Thou art the unerring Judge of what is right, and at all times consultest the happiness of thy creatures. Into thy hands, therefore would I freely and unreservedly commit myself, praying that I may pass the remainder of my days under thy special care and protection.

Guided and defended by Thee, may I fear no evil nor be dismayed by the dangers that everywhere surround me. May I cheerfully persevere in every part of my duty through all the vicissitudes and changes that await me. In every prosperous event may I rejoice in Thee as the gracious author of it. In every afflictive scene, whether it regard my own person or those that are dear to me, may a sense of thy universal government engage me to dismiss every doubt and suspicion, and to turn my eyes full of confidence and faith to Thee my ever merciful protector and guardian.

I give thanks to Thee, thou God of all goodness! for every thing which tends to cherish and increase within me this consoling idea, which makes me feel the value of the happiness which Thou hast put into my power, and tends to unite my soul to Thee in the bonds of the most inviolable and unchangeable attachment.

May the conviction that Thou art my God be ever present to my mind; may it blend itself with all my other thoughts and sentiments, and become an abundant source of consolation and joy. May it animate me to a diligent and faithful discharge of my duty,

and incite me to persevere even unto the end in the ways of holiness and obedience, so that I may finally receive a crown of life which the Lord the righteous Judge shall give me at that time when all that is imperfect shall be done away, and all who truly love and obey Thee shall be admitted to the glories of thy presence and kingdom above.

Whatever Thou seest that is still deficient and unworthy of me, do Thou of thy infinite goodness enable me to correct and reform. Teach me to discern in the clearest manner the odiousness and deformity of all sin and folly in thy sight; and cease not, O God! to strive with me until Thou hast enabled me to put away every thing that is inconsistent with my profession and to perfect holiness in thy faith and fear.

To these my prayers for myself I would now humbly add my supplications for all my fellow-mortals—for all who are yet strangers to true religion and are not sensible of the great and good things Thou hast done for them. May all be speedily converted to the faith of thy holy gospel, and understand the truth as it is in Jesus Christ our Lord, that by acting agreeably to its precepts, they may receive the forgiveness of sins and attain

to an inheritance amongst them that are truly sanctified.

May the rulers of mankind, in imitation of Thee the great Father of the universe, learn to exercise judgment, righteousness, and equity in the earth. May they and all those over whom they rule learn as fellow-creatures to sympathise with one another, and as much as in them lies, endeavour to alleviate the afflictions and lessen the sorrows of each other.

May a spirit of mercy and kindness pervade all orders and classes of thy people. May they cherish that meekness and humanity which our holy religion and the example of our blessed Master strongly inculcate, remembering that by no better criterion can they be known to be his disciples than by the love which they have one for another. May they be anxious to maintain their claim to this honourable distinction, and rejoice evermore in the wise and prudent part they have chosen.

Grant that the suffering sons and daughters of mortality may experience not only all the alleviation which the tender assiduities of their brethren can administer, but may feel the supporting influence of a firm

and steady reliance on thy unceasing and infinite goodness. Enable them to view with unmoved composure the approach of that awful season when, their flesh and their strength failing, they must go to the house appointed for all living.

For myself I would repeat my humble supplication that thy blessing may attend me in the way of my duty, that after a life of holiness, truth, and righteousness here on earth, I may happily attain to thy kingdom of joy and glory in the pure and happy regions of peace and love, where sin and sorrow, pain and sickness, decay and death shall be known no more.

Sanctify, blessed God! this most glorious prospect to me. Let it transform my heart and mind to all that is good and virtuous. Guide me through life, support me in death, and when my eyes shall be closed upon every earthly scene, grant me a participation of those delightful realities, the anticipation of which is most gratifying to my soul. Hear me in heaven where Thou reignest in the midst of the most exalted and devoted of thy creatures; and the highest ascriptions of honour, praise, and power, be to Thee for evermore.—*Amen.*

TWENTIETH ADDRESS.

O Lord most holy, O God most mighty, Thou merciful preserver of thy creatures! it becomes us and all the children of men to bow down before thy footstool to adore the greatness of thy majesty, and to implore thy favour and protection.

I acknowledge myself to be under the highest obligations to worship and obey Thee as the God of nature and the overruling director of all things in heaven and on earth; but above all as the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Rich have been the manifestations of thy goodness in and through him; and as he hath taught me, I would now implore thy mercy and favour towards myself and all mankind.

O thou Almighty God! whilst Thou hast wisdom and goodness to chuse, and unbounded power to perform whatever Thou seest necessary to my happiness, Thou hast a tender regard for every part of thy universal family; I and all mankind are thy offspring, and Thou hast the

highest parental claim to my filial love, reverence, and obedience.

Dispose me ever to sanctify Thee in my heart—to honour Thee with my lips—to revere all thy perfections—and to give unto Thee the glory and the praise of all thy wonderful works. Thou art a God glorious in holiness, a Being of spotless purity and perfect moral rectitude.

Bestow upon me, I beseech Thee O my Father! whatever is necessary for the support and improvement of my mind, and for the maintenance and growth of all goodness and virtue within me. May it please Thee to supply all the wants of myself and of all mankind, both of body and mind—to bless me in my worldly substance; but above all I beseech Thee to bless me in all my spiritual concerns, and to enable me to walk at all times in a manner worthy of my christian vocation.

I entreat Thee to forgive me those sins whether in heart or life by which I have at any time offended Thee—dishonoured thy holy name—wronged any of my neighbours—or done injury to my own soul. And as a means of obtaining thy favour, may I cultivate a spirit of meekness, patience,

condescension, and forbearance to all around me; forgiving all who have done or wished me evil, and being ready to do acts of substantial kindness to all without exception.

O grant me grace to take a lively delight in doing good to all as I have opportunity, imitating my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who went about doing good, and finally, became obedient unto death that he might give the most powerful attestation both to the sincerity of his professions and to the truth of his holy gospel, and promote as much as in him lay the eternal salvation of mankind.

Hear me, gracious God! whilst I humbly implore thy merciful guidance through the remainder of life. Let me never deviate from a steady adherence to the religion of the gospel, and an unremitting and faithful obedience to all its precepts. May I never more be drawn aside either by my own appetites and passions, or by the injudicious or corrupt counsel of any of my fellow-creatures. May I never be entangled by the snares of vice, or be in any instance overcome by the temptations that surround me.

To Thee I desire to look up at all times as my deliverer from danger—my support under distress—and the alleviator of my troubles. Thou alone art possessed of power adequate to my assistance at all times. Thou alone canst relieve me from extremity of suffering; and when all earthly things are vanishing from my sight, Thou alone canst supply a balm of consolation to render the pain of dissolution light and tolerable. The government of this world and all its affairs is entirely in thy hands—thy dominion is supreme—thy authority is uncontroulable and universal—and the glory of thy perfections is from everlasting to everlasting.

Most devoutly would I ascribe to Thee the supreme eternal Jehovah! the sovereign Ruler of all worlds, and the merciful guide and guardian of all who put their trust in Thee, glory, honour, praise, and power, thanksgiving and blessing, throughout all ages, for evermore.—*Amen.*

TWENTY-FIRST ADDRESS.

O ALMIGHTY, most holy, and glorious God! whose kind providence protects and guides, and whose spirit animates and enlivens me. Of myself I am a frail and imperfect creature, and continually dependent upon Thee; but I feel strength and comfort in the relation in which I stand to Thee, for Thou art the most high God—who art infinitely wise, powerful, and good—who knowest all my wants, and all the means of supplying them. Thou knowest what is most conducive to my happiness, and art both willing and able to provide whatever is requisite to secure it.

Yea, O Lord! Thou art my Father, Thou never ceasest to act with paternal kindness to me. Whether Thou grantest or refusest my requests—whether Thou causest me to rejoice in the good things I possess, or to be afflicted by the loss of them—whether Thou openest thy hand to enrich me with thy gifts, or layest it upon me for correction, still I would

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acknowledge with the liveliest gratitude thy fatherly compassion and care.

I desire, O Lord! to love Thee with all my heart, with all my mind, and with all my strength. I see it to be perfectly fit and right that Thou shouldest be the object of the highest exertions of gratitude which I am capable of making, and that I ought joyfully to submit to all thy dispensations. Accept then, I humbly beseech Thee, the serious and devout dedication of myself to Thee my God, and strengthen and confirm the fixed purpose of my soul to live to Thee, and act agreeably to thy holy and blessed will.

Whether the path in which I may be called to walk shall be smooth or rugged, easy or difficult, light or overclouded, I pray that I may walk with firmness and alacrity, persuaded, that while I love, revere, and obey Thee, I shall be approaching to that happiness for which Thou hast designed me. O let this persuasion comfort and rejoice my soul during my pilgrimage on earth. Let me ever be looking to Thee as the rock on which I may securely depend—as the anchor of my hopes—as the sure foundation which will never fail,

nor ever disappoint the expectations which I may reasonably indulge.

May the conviction that Thou watchest over me for my good, be at all times present to my mind, and become so intimately united with all my thoughts and sentiments, that I may be growing daily more virtuous, more tranquil and happy. Grant that nothing in future life may ever estrange my heart from Thee, nor ever efface from my mind the indissoluble connection which Thou hast ordained between virtue and happiness on the one hand, and between disobedience and misery on the other. And may the firm belief of this ever prove to me, and to all thy children in every part of the earth, an abundant source of consolation and joy.

Most devoutly would I pour out the prayer of intercession to Thee, the supreme Ruler of the universe! for the welfare and comfort of every nation, every family, and every individual that lives. May it please Thee to bestow upon all, those mercies, both temporal and spiritual, which their several cases and circumstances may require; and may thy bounty and goodness

in granting them produce their proper fruits of gratitude and obedience.

Grant that all men everywhere may be speedily blessed with the light of the gospel, and be brought to know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. May thy ancient people (the Jews) be converted to the faith of the gospel, and the fulness of the Gentiles be brought in. May all who profess the faith of the gospel live in dutiful obedience to thy holy will, and let their light so shine before them, that men may see their good works, and glorify Thee their Father in heaven.

In behalf of all who suffer under affliction and trouble of any kind, I implore thy merciful regards. Remove or mitigate their sorrow and distress—supply their wants—lay no more upon them than Thou wilt enable them to bear with unrepining patience, and grant them a happy and joyful deliverance. May all their sufferings be sanctified to them, and produce the peaceable fruits of righteousness in the hearts and lives of themselves and all that are connected with them, so that thy

gracious and benevolent intentions in afflicting them may be happily accomplished.

Bless all my relations, friends, and benefactors with whatever is necessary for life and godliness; and, by a wise and becoming improvement of thy mercies here, may they be gradually forming to a blessed fitness for the glories of thy presence and kingdom when time shall be no more. Direct all who mourn for the sins and follies of mankind to adopt the most prudent and judicious expedients to correct and amend them. May a spirit of reformation shew itself amongst all ranks and classes of society, and may the efforts of those who would check and stifle it be feeble and unavailing.

Give wisdom to parents to watch over the education of their offspring with unceasing diligence and care. Enable them to discern, in their earliest stage, those propensities which being overlooked may bring after them the most afflictive and unhappy consequences. Implant in the bosoms of the young a temper of ready and cheerful compliance with the reasonable wishes and commands of their superiors in age and knowledge, and dispose them to

act at all times upon the true principles of filial piety, gratitude, and love.

O Lord my God! vouchsafe to hear my prayers—to accept my praises—and to bless, prosper, and sanctify to me the duty I have now endeavoured to discharge. Pass by the imperfections and deficiencies which cannot but be visible to thy penetrating eye; and as my years shall by thy mercy be protracted upon the earth, may I be enabled to approach nearer and nearer to that standard of excellence which Thou hast appointed in the gospel of Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world.

And now with all possible reverence, homage, and humility, I would devoutly and gratefully ascribe unto Thee all power, glory, blessing, and praise, henceforth and for evermore.—*Amen.*

TWENTY-SECOND ADDRESS.

O Lord! almighty and eternal God! while creatures change Thou art the same; while our days are passing away, thy years suffer no diminution; but Thou livest and reignest unchangeable and immortal. I pray that myself and all my fellow-creatures may be brought to attend to those lessons which thy attributes and excellencies should teach us, so that every day may find us advanced in our preparation for that glorious season of peace, happiness, and joy for which Thou hast designed us.

Grant that I may become more and more disposed to enter seriously into my own heart—to institute a solemn scrutiny into my life and conduct—and to discern distinctly the use and advantage I have made of the privileges I have enjoyed, and the occasions afforded me to serve and obey Thee my God! May my self-examination be directed to discover whether I have uniformly endeavoured to do good to all around me from a principle of one-

dience to Thee, and a sense of their being my brethren, thy children, and the objects of thy gracious notice and regard.

O most merciful God! I pray Thee to forgive whatever I may have done amiss through surprise, inadvertency, and inattention. Give me wisdom to be more upon my guard for the future. Incline me to a hearty and unfeigned condemnation of myself for every transgression of thy holy laws; and grant that from a just discontent with myself, and the reproaches of my own conscience, I may detect my sin and make a firm resolution to avoid it for the time to come.

Upon these terms I humbly trust that I may rely upon thy pardoning mercy, of which Thou hast given mankind the strongest assurances in the gospel of thy well-beloved Son Jesus Christ. And for ever may my soul bless and praise, magnify and adore thy sacred and divine majesty for this display of thy infinite goodness and love to thy creatures. The tongues of the most exalted beings cannot sufficiently extol Thee for this instance of thy benevolence, nor utter the praises which are most justly due unto Thee.

I would meekly commend myself to the guidance and direction of thy enlightening spirit, beseeching Thee to preserve me from the numerous snares by which I am everywhere surrounded. O let not any of the fascinating allurements of this world have power to draw me aside for a moment from that fidelity of attachment which I owe to Thee. Disarm prosperity of its influence to render me unmindful of my duty to Thee, or indisposed to cherish the gratitude which should ever glow in my breast.

May adversity be equally ineffectual to alienate my heart from Thee, or to create in me the slightest suspicion that thy wisdom and goodness are not infinite and unalterable. Wean me from every propensity to complain or murmur at thy dispensations; and let me receive the sweetest consolation from the assurance that thy tender mercies are over all thy works, and that no real evil shall overtake those who live an upright and a holy life.

Accept my devout intercession for all my brethren of mankind. I beseech Thee to put a stop to the progress of despotism, bigotry, and superstition; and may truth and virtue, which have been too long

neglected and despised upon earth, become completely victorious over error and vice. Grant an abundant share of wisdom and courage to all the friends of virtue and truth; may they fearlessly avow the convictions of their own minds, and use the most eligible means to recommend the practice of everything that is excellent and good to their fellow-creatures.

Have compassion upon all those who are suffering under sickness, pain, and sorrow of any kind. May they receive from Thee, under their several trials, all the assistance and support of which they stand in need. Soothe them in their distress—give them an humble trust and affiance in Thee—fortify their minds with patience under all their sufferings—and grant them deliverance as soon as patience has had its full and perfect effect.

May thy blessing accompany the right discharge of all relative duties amongst thy creatures. Grant that parents may conscientiously fulfil the obligations they are under towards their children; affectionately exhorting them for their present and eternal good, providing for them the best education in their power, and seconding

their wise and prudent advice by the persuasive influence of an upright and blameless example.

Dispose the minds of the young to listen with docility and attention to the lessons of instruction, which they at any time receive. Make them sensible of their own ignorance and weakness, and let them rely with grateful confidence on those whom affection and duty prompt to protect, inform, and direct them. O let them be dutiful and obedient to their parents, soothing their cares and alleviating the weight of declining years by the vivacity and cheerfulness which are natural to their age.

Preserve in the bonds of the most tender affection those who have consented to share the joys and sorrows of each other in the conjugal relation. May they be duly sensible of the conditions on which they entered upon their engagements, and remember, that for the violation of these, they must render a just and impartial account before the judgment seat which Thou hast ordained.

Soften the disposition of superiors, and make them mild, gentle, and condescending

to those whom in the arrangements of thy providence Thou hast placed below them. Incline the hearts of masters to give unto their servants that which is just and equitable—to be willing to allow them every indulgence which reason and prudence can warrant—to rejoice in their comfort—and to provide the best means for securing their most important and lasting interests. In return for the kindness they experience, may servants be upright, faithful, and diligent; not chargeable with eye-service, nor being actuated by any corrupt or mercenary motives. May the sincere love of Thee, and of Jesus their Lord, operate most effectually in their minds and in the hearts of all mankind.

To Thee, the most high and mighty God! may the tribute of unfeigned praise and thanksgiving be paid by all thy creatures, now and for evermore.—*Amen.*

TWENTY-THIRD ADDRESS.

O Thou first great parent Mind! the source of all being, perfection, and happiness! Thou art the spring from which every movement in the whole universe originates; without whom nothing is, and nothing comes to pass. To Thee I am indebted for my existence, and for all the powers, faculties, and capacities which render that existence a blessing and a comfort to me.

I earnestly pray that Thou wouldst bless and prosper me in my desires and endeavours to gain instruction from the great truths which are clearly made known by the voice of nature. Grant me success in my anxious wishes to learn all that may be gathered from the works of creation, and to improve by such means in knowledge and virtue, truth and love. Enable me more especially to profit by the fuller and more distinct revelation of thy most holy and righteous will, given in the gospel of Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour.

O that all the discoveries of thy infinite irresistible power, boundless wisdom, and

never-failing goodness, may have their full influence upon my mind, and upon the whole of my temper and conduct. May the conviction be deeply impressed upon my mind that thy authority cannot be controuled —that thy will cannot be evaded—and that thy government cannot be interrupted. Make me duly sensible that I am at all times and in all circumstances absolutely in thy hands, holding life itself and all that endears it to me entirely and wholly at thy pleasure, suffering only through thine appointment, and prolonging my days in joy or in sorrow according to thy will.

Give me wisdom to make thy favour the first anxiety of my mind, and the possession of it the first joy of my heart. May the qualifying myself for it be the highest ambition of all my future life, and the constant object of my zealous pursuits.

Most humbly would I commend and commit myself and all my interests to thy most gracious care and protection; beseeching Thee to continue me under thy paternal guardianship—to secure me against all future dangers—to preserve me from falling by any future temptation—to keep me from every real evil—and to cause all things to work together for my final and everlasting good,

Inspire me with a temper of the most pure and lively gratitude, that I may not in any instance allow myself to be unmindful of the mercies Thou art pleased to bestow upon me, nor insensible of the obligations under which Thou hast laid me. Accept my hearty thanks for all the advantages and privileges I have at any time experienced or still continue to enjoy—for all my powers, faculties, and capacities both of mind and body—and for whatever has contributed to their preservation or improvement; for blessings of a public and private nature—for the pleasures that flow from social intercourse and friendly endearments—for the portion of health, ease, and cheerfulness with which I have been blessed—and for an exemption from numerous outward troubles and disasters which might have befallen me.

More especially would I most gratefully acknowledge thy benevolence and kindness in affording me the various gratifications which the exercise of my understanding and affections has occasioned—for all the useful knowledge which I have been able to acquire—and for the good I may have done to others by imparting a portion of it to them. With still warmer gratitude would I confess the

obligations under which Thou hast laid me, by making me a partaker of the rich and precious blessings of the gospel dispensation —for the glorious promises and assurances which it contains—for the powerful encouragements it holds out to the practice of all holiness, piety, and virtue—and for the exalted hopes it enables us to entertain of the pardon of our sins upon sincere repentance, and of a better state of existence to succeed the present.

When I review the past years of life, I cannot but discern many instances in which I have both done that which Thou hast forbidden, and neglected to perform what Thou hast commanded. My inferior appetites and passions have not always been under due controul, and outward circumstances have had more influence over me than they ought to have had over a rational being, and one who had received the glad tidings of salvation from the lips of Jesus Christ and his apostles.

I acknowledge my unworthiness unto Thee with a penitent concern that I have not been more upon my guard, nor walked with more circumspection before Thee. I beseech Thee of thy eternal mercy not to

enter into judgment with thy servant, nor to deal with me as my folly and iniquity have deserved. Increase my power to resist every wrong inclination, and to shun the snares into which I have before fallen. Enable me to walk at all times uprightly before Thee, and to preserve myself unspotted from the pollutions of the wicked and thoughtless part of mankind.

These my imperfect addresses I implore thy gracious acceptance of, for thy infinite mercy's sake; and to Thee, the Lord God Almighty! the merciful Parent of the universe! I would solemnly and devoutly ascribe every possible honour, and praise the most exalted and unceasing.—*Amen.*

TWENTY-FOURTH ADDRESS.

O Thou who art supreme over all, and possessed of all possible perfection and excellence! the infinite Majesty of the world! Thou hast made me in thy own image to contemplate thy works and to admire and adore the superlative excellence of thy divine nature. I desire to bow down before Thee with the profoundest reverence and humility, and to express the wants and wishes of my soul before the throne of thy mercy.

Thy almighty voice first called me into being, and thy hands placed me in this part of thy glorious works. Thou hast nourished and sustained me from the moment I drew the breath of life to the present moment. Thou hast enabled me to escape the evils from which I have been spared. Thou hast poured down upon me the riches of thy bounty, and hast given me the greatest cause to call upon myself and all that is within me to bless and praise, to magnify and extol thy holy name.

I desire to thank thee for the wise and useful frame of my body; and more especially

for those noble faculties of the mind by which I am enabled to admire the beauty of thy works and the wonderful order of thy providence; and to attain to the knowledge and love of Thee, the Creator of the world and the author of all good.

I thank Thee that Thou hast implanted in me a sense of good and evil, and enabled me to possess and exercise the amiable affections of benevolence and compassion, leading me by these means to the admiration and love of goodness, and to the enjoyment of that happiness which arises from the practice of virtue and true religion.

I bless thy holy name that Thou hast not confined thy goodness to the present world, but hast awakened in me the pleasing hope of immortality; and by the various methods of thy providence and grace, art training me up for heaven and everlasting life. Above all I praise Thee for the rich display of thy mercy in the dispensation of the gospel by Jesus Christ our Lord, and that Thou wast pleased to raise him up to bless mankind, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of sin to the worship and obedience of Thee, the true and living God.

Have mercy upon the works of thy hand. Forgive me every sin I have been guilty of upon the gracious terms of unfeigned repentance and reformation. Enable me to correct, I beseech Thee, whatever is amiss in my temper and conduct, and cause me to delight in the practice of every thing virtuous and good. Enlighten my mind with true wisdom that I may have pure and worthy apprehensions of thy nature and providence, and a right understanding of that religion which is acceptable to God and recommended to me in the gospel of thy son Jesus Christ.

May I evermore discern, approve, and practise the things that are excellent. May my heart be endued with every good and pious disposition, so that all the great truths of religion may have a powerful and habitual influence in rectifying and amending the disorders of my life, that I may at all times reverence thy authority—look up to Thee with satisfaction and joy as the giver of all good—love Thee with my whole heart—and delight in thy testimonies. O that I may be truly thankful for thy numerous and undeserved mercies—may confide in thy all-gracious providence—

and yield an unreserved and uniform obedience to all thy righteous commandments.

In solemn testimony of my good-will to all my brethren, I desire also to offer up my humble supplications for the whole human race, beseeching Thee, the great Parent of the universe! to extend thy mercy and favour to them according to their several situations and circumstances.

Grant that all the families of the earth may be speedily brought to the knowledge and pure worship of Thee, the only true God, that all superstition and false religion may be done away, and the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ may take root and spread itself in every part of the world, bringing all mankind into subjection to those laws of truth and righteousness which shall never have an end.

I would humbly implore thy fatherly goodness in favour of all who are involved in troubles, and suffering under afflictions. Restore health to the sick—give ease to all that are in pain—relieve and rescue all that are persecuted or oppressed—and comfort all that mourn.

Prosper the righteous endeavours of those who are actively engaged in projects

and enterprises, which have for their object the amelioration of the morals of mankind, and the improvement of their understandings. Enable them to adopt the most prudent and effectual expedients for the accomplishment of their designs; and grant them that spirit of perseverance which will carry them through all difficulties, and render them finally successful.

Let there be a right understanding between rulers and the ruled of the nature and just end of government, and the salutary purposes it is intended to answer. Make both of them wise to keep these purposes in sight, and to act upon all occasions with a steady and uniform view to their attainment. May the severity of law be tempered with such moderation as reason and equity require, and due allowances made for peculiarity of circumstances and difficulty of situation.

Dispose the minds of men to the right observance of all relative duties, that in the conjugal, parental, filial, and fraternal relation, nothing may be wanting to secure mutual confidence and to promote mutual happiness. May the authority of masters be exercised with gentleness and mercy,

and the return they meet with from their servants be that of faithful and cheerful obedience.

Now unto Thee, the one only true and eternal God! the source of all my former mercies, and of all my present enjoyments, the God upon whom every future hope is dependent, both in time and through the revolving ages of eternity, I would devoutly ascribe all honour and glory, blessing, thanksgiving, and praise, henceforth and for evermore.—*Amen.*

TWENTY-FIFTH ADDRESS.

O Thou infinite and eternal Jehovah! who comprisest in thyself all that is great and good—all that is adorable and perfect. Every thing that proceeds from Thee tends to promote general felicity;—both good, and, what appears to us, evil, pleasures and pain, prosperity and adversity, rewards and punishments, favours and chastisements, are well fitted to exalt thy creatures to higher degrees of excellence and happiness. Thou pourest forth the streams of light and life—of joy and comfort, through all the different parts of thy immense dominions.

I desire to adore Thee as my Creator. I am the work of thy hands. Thou art my sovereign, I am thy subject. Thou art my father, I am thy child. I am connected with Thee by the strongest and most endearing ties—by all that can give Thee the justest claim to the whole affection of my heart, and the uniform grateful obedience of my life.

Various and invaluable O Lord! are the gifts and benefits which Thou hast bestowed, and which Thou still continuest to confer upon me. How can I justly prize the rich tokens of thy love given me by Jesus Christ, through whom Thou hast assured me of the forgiveness of my sins, and of thy gracious acceptance of my sincere though imperfect services! I am as much surrounded with thy mercies as I am with the light that shines around me, and the air which I breathe.

Grant then, O God! that I may love Thee with all the powers I possess, and that the idea of thy existence and amiable venerable attributes may become the most consoling and delightful that I am capable of forming, that I may habitually think of Thee as my benefactor, friend, and father, with the most lively transports of gratitude and joy. May I never forget that all things proceed from Thee, and that it is thy wisdom and thy love which dispense both good and evil.

I pray that my joy and happiness may always consist in knowing and loving Thee—in conforming my will to thine—in resigning myself into thy hands, as into

the hands of the best of parents—and that it may thereby strengthen more and more the ties which unite me to Thee.

I confess and lament, O Lord! that I am not yet what I should be; but I would gratefully rejoice in the full assurance that I shall hereafter know Thee better—adore Thee more worthily—attach myself more closely to Thee—love Thee with more ardour—and experience in the contemplation of thy perfections the purest and most exalted delights. Merciful Father! sanctify to me this glorious and animating assurance, so that it may influence my temper and animate all my future conduct—may promote the serenity and peace of my mind, and confirm my faith in the gracious promises Thou hast been pleased to give us.

Vouchsafe, O God! to bring all men acquainted with thy holy will. Remove from their minds the veil of ignorance and superstition, and grant that, as Jesus Christ came a light into the world, all may be brought to a belief of his divine authority and commission, and no one who believeth in him may abide in darkness, or in his life and actions appear to prefer darkness to light.

Mercifully guide and controul the counsels of all princes and potentates, and overrule all affairs of state so that a spirit of reformation and piety may everywhere prevail. Grant that the wisest expedients to secure and perpetuate peace, may be at all times adopted; and that no pains may be spared to prevent animosity and discord, either amongst nations or individuals.

Bless the labours of all the faithful ministers of the gospel. May they announce and explain the purity of its doctrines, and the certainty of its promises, so that all may be brought to form a just estimate of their value—may walk in the paths of truth and knowledge—be filled with the happiness of being true christians—and see in Thee, their God, nothing but the tender affection of a father and a friend. May they look to Jesus as their forerunner and guide in the road to glory; and, influenced by the same mind that was in him, may they walk with increased circumspection, and finally arrive at the mark of excellence at which it becomes them continually to aim.

Sanctify to the afflicted and distressed the troubles and sorrows which they

endure, so that they may produce their proper fruits, and answer thy kind intentions in sending them. Grant that all who are in poverty may possess a state of mind suited to their condition, and contented with what they have here may direct their views to a better life, where all shall receive according to what they have *done*, not according to what they have *enjoyed*, in this world. There may they partake of those riches which endure for ever, and of those joys which shall flourish and increase throughout eternity.

Hear me, O Thou who art the God of prayer! in these my humble petitions—accept the just tribute of praise which I am anxious to pay—bless to me the exercises of devotion so that they may strengthen my veneration, love, and gratitude to Thee my God!—enlarge my benevolence to all around me—and animate my endeavours to attain to greater purity of heart and sanctity of life.

Unto Thee, the Lord God Omnipotent! who art one, and whose name is one,—the only true and everliving God! be all honour and glory, dominion and power, throughout all ages.—*Amen.*

TWENTY-SIXTH ADDRESS.

EVER-BLESSED and most holy Lord God Almighty! the eternal and inexhaustible source of all being, perfection, and happiness! From Thee proceed those streams of light and life which diffuse themselves over all worlds, and all the orders of created existences which inhabit them. Thou art the Father of the immense family which fills the heavens, the earth, and the innumerable worlds which revolve in the immensity of space.

Thy paternal regards are constant, unchangeable, and unbounded; no revolution of time can ever alter or produce the smallest change in thy divine nature. The earth and all that it contains may undergo changes and revolutions without end, but Thou wilt continue the same. Thy years will never fail Thou flourishest and wilt for ever flourish in undecaying and immortal youth.

Most gracious God! great and manifold as is thy goodness to me in this life, yet far superior are the hopes of future glory

which Thou hast excited in me by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thou hast given me the best reason to believe that his religion is derived from Thee, the Father of light, and the source and author of all happiness! With the greatest security may we repose the confidence of our souls on Thee, assured that Thou art and ever hast been attentive to the most important concerns of thy creatures.

I would joyfully acknowledge Jesus Christ to be the greatest benefactor whom Thou hast raised up amongst mankind. I would testify the sincerest gratitude for all that he hath undertaken and suffered for me. May I obey him with my whole heart, cheerfully follow his steps, and endeavour more and more to resemble him, that I may hereafter be exalted to a participation of the same glory and felicity which he enjoys in heaven.

Grant me wisdom to understand aright the doctrines and precepts which he taught. May I exercise the best powers of reason I possess in my endeavours to interpret the writings which contain the revelation of thy sacred will, divesting myself of all prejudice, partiality, and bias of every kind,

and cultivating a most ardent love of the truth for its own sake, and for thy sake who art the God of truth.

Enable me, O God! to form a just estimate of my own character, to attain to that knowledge of myself which will render me truly humble before Thee, and lead me to the practice of those virtues which are most opposite to the prevailing customs of the world, and most painful to flesh and blood. Assist me in those examinations of my own heart and life which it is my duty frequently to enter into, that I may not deceive myself in any degree, nor be inclined to think of myself at any time more highly than I ought to think.

In my intercourse with my fellow-creatures may I conduct myself with that meekness of wisdom and propriety of deportment which will render it pleasing and beneficial to them, abstaining from every thing that can give just ground of offence, and endeavouring to promote the comfort and edification of all. Impress upon my heart a deep conviction of the indispensible duty of guarding against every violation of the truth, and doing all in my power to promote the same conviction in others.

Incline my heart to a patient and contented continuance in well-doing, that I may never be weary of walking in the path which Thou hast marked out for me, nor ever be disposed to complain of thy laws as burdensome and grievous. In the midst of the greatest difficulties and embarrassments may I retain my firm trust in thy mercy and goodness, satisfied that Thou, who art the judge and governor of the world, wilt, in all circumstances and at all times, do that and that only which is right.

Permit me too, most merciful Father! to express before Thee the desires of my heart in behalf of the whole family of mankind. I pray that the love of truth and virtue may prevail more and more in the world, that men may everywhere acquire the most just and enlarged ideas of thy attributes and perfections—thy nature and providence—thy dispensations and righteous moral government.

Banish from amongst thy creatures that ignorance and wrong-mindedness which have given birth to the animosities, contentions, and disputes which have subsisted amongst them, and occasioned the most tremendous and wide-spreading evils.

Check in their earliest stage the ambitious propensities of those to whom in the course of thy providence a more than ordinary share of power is granted. Make them to know that there is and can be no power but what comes originally from Thee, and that the most exalted of men must be answerable at the bar of thy tribunal for the use or abuse they shall have made of the authority with which they are entrusted.

Let the public heralds of sacred truth be eminent for their humility, condescension and readiness to bear the burdens of others. May they rightly discern and appreciate the value and importance of true religion, and omit no expedients which prudence and charity suggest to lead men to the knowledge, love, and practice of it. Grant that their well-meant and judicious efforts may be met by corresponding exertions on the part of those whom they are desirous to edify and improve. Pour out upon all congregations of thy worshiping servants a spirit of zeal for thy honour, and a more active desire to promote each other's present and everlasting welfare and happiness.

Sustain thy aged servants in the declining years of their earthly pilgrimage. Give them fortitude and patience to bear, as they ought to do, the infirmities which advanced age brings with it. Enable them to set an example of cheerful piety to all around them, and to give proof of the efficacy of religious principle to administer inward peace and composure.

Guard the young from the fatal effects which precipitance and inconsideration occasion. Enable those to whom the care of them is committed to direct their education with so much prudence, as may prevent them from falling into those snares which may be lastingly injurious. May they grow up in the exercise of the noblest virtues, and become examples of every thing that is praiseworthy and truly honourable.

Entreating Thee for thy infinite mercy's sake to accept me in this my humble offering of prayer and thanksgiving, I would most devoutly ascribe unto Thee all honour and glory, salvation, blessing, and praise, now and for evermore.—*Amen.*

TWENTY-SEVENTH ADDRESS.

O ALMIGHTY and eternal God! blessed for ever be thy holy name that Thou hast never left thyself without witness of thy glorious perfections to any age or nation, nor hast ever ceased to manifest thy uncontrouled power, thy preserving mercy, and thy inexhaustible goodness to the world at large. Most joyful is the thought that I can approach thy footstool to adore and worship Thee, not as an unknown God, but as the sovereign of the universe—the father of angels and of men—and the most gracious friend of all mankind.

I humbly pray that Thou wilt sanctify and bless me in my improvement of all the advantages I possess, and enable me justly to value the religion of Jesus—to understand its doctrines—obey its precepts—enjoy its promises—and to derive from the gospel all the encouragement and consolation which it is calculated to produce. May I ever regard Jesus Christ as the messenger of thy truth to men—as him whom

Thou didst commission to dissipate that ignorance, superstition, and error, which had occasioned the most deplorable evils, and to lead mankind to wisdom, truth, and virtue.

O may I be animated and governed by the spirit of the gospel—place a perfect trust in its assurances—confide in its divine origin—and value it as, in all respects, most worthy of my faith, my confidence, my attachment, and submission. Dispose me to make it the constant rule of my conduct, and an active principle of obedience; may it be the means not only of discovering, but of keeping constantly before me, the end of my being, and prepare me to attain it.

Guided by its laws, and influenced by a sense of gratitude, may I be filled with love to all my fellow-creatures of every rank and condition, regarding every man as my brother, and entitled to every office of humanity that I can perform towards him. Incline my heart to rejoice with those who rejoice, and to weep with those who weep;—to be ever ready to assist and befriend my brethren, and anxious that I may, by bearing their burdens, fulfil the law of Christ.

But I would most humbly entreat for mercy inasmuch as I have been too often inattentive to the interests of others, and inclined to prefer my own ease, convenience, and gratification before theirs. Nor is it in this respect only, that I have acted unworthily of my christian profession. My heart condemns me as one who has not been duly sensible of the obligations under which Thou hast laid me, to serve Thee with fidelity and constancy, and to worship Thee as I ought to have done—in spirit and in truth. Too powerful has been the influence of the world over me, attaching me to the things that perish, and alienating my heart and affections from Thee, and from the concerns of a higher and a better state.

Most heartily then would I repeat my humble prayer for mercy and forgiveness, beseeching Thee not to lay to my charge the sins of which I have been guilty; but upon my sincere repentance and reformation to remit the punishment which I have merited, and to reinstate me in thy favour. O let me not feel any of the bad consequences of my unworthy conduct, either

as they affect myself or any of my fellow-creatures. Let my renewed obedience make ample amends through thy infinite mercy for my former delinquency; and may the sincerity of my amendment be evinced by the efforts I shall make to promote the cause of virtue and religion in the world.

Grant, merciful Father! that the religion of Jesus Christ may speedily enlighten every part of the world, and that all who enjoy the glorious light may walk worthily of their vocation. Direct the counsels of all potentates and rulers of the world; cause tyranny, contention, persecution, and war to cease in every place; and may peace, harmony, and concord prevail in every part of the globe. May all men acknowledge themselves to be the children of Thee, the supreme governor of the world, and united to each other by the closest ties of brotherly affection.

Sustain and comfort all thy suffering servants, and may they experimentally know Thee to be the God of all consolation and peace. Deliver them in mercy from all their sorrows, and enable them to reap the full benefit which Thou didst

kindly intend in sending them. May the pains and griefs of this mortal state direct their views to that which is incorruptible and unfailing, teaching them to omit no means of securing that peace and rest above, which Thou hast been pleased, from the most benevolent motives, to cause them to be strangers to in their earthly pilgrimage.

I beseech Thee to bless my friends and relations with all that Thou seest to be good for them, both in time and to eternity. Open their minds that they may distinctly see and justly appreciate the things that belong to their everlasting salvation. I desire, also, to intercede with Thee in behalf of all those who may have cherished the feelings of hostility and ill-will against me, entreating Thee not to lay to their charge the wrongs they may have done or wished to do me. Bring them to a right sense of their duty, and a deep concern for having come short of it;—give them grace to break off their sins by true repentance, and to make their peace with Thee.

Grant me and all, most gracious God! thy blessing, guidance, and favour through

the remaining scenes and events of life. Be Thou our comfort and support at the approach of death, and our everlasting portion when time shall be no more.

And now unto Thee, the eternal, unchangeable Jehovah! the only true and ever-blessed God! be ascribed, with all possible humility and reverence, thanksgiving, blessing, and praise, henceforth and for evermore.—*Amen.*

TWENTY-EIGHTH ADDRESS.

O Almighty, most holy, and adorable Father! Lord of all mercy and God of all consolation, the ever-flowing fountain of all good! The books of nature and revelation harmoniously unite in proclaiming this great and animating truth, that Thou art the most venerable, most excellent, and most amiable of all beings—the origin and never-failing source of all good, of all happiness, and perfection.

Thou hast the justest claim to all the obedience of my life—to all the gratitude, reverence, and affection of my heart. Thou art the kindest, most bountiful, and tender Parent of the universe. To Thee I am indebted for existence itself, and for all that renders it desirable. Thy bounty supplies the wants of my body and my soul. Thou hast connected me with Thee by the strongest ties, and a principle of love and gratitude binds it upon my conscience as an indispensible duty to love, venerate, and adore Thee with the full bent and energy of all the powers I possess.

Grant, I beseech Thee, that I may ever think of Thee with the most lively transports of thankful joy. May I rejoice in knowing Thee—in knowing that Thou art an eternal and infinitely perfect being—most great, glorious, and holy—ordering and directing all things, and designing every thing that befalls me to conspire together for my ultimate and everlasting good. May my happiness consist henceforth in obeying and loving Thee—in conforming my will to thine—in resigning myself entirely into thy hands as into the hands of the best of fathers, the kindest of friends, and the most generous of benefactors.

Inestimable are the tokens of thy love and mercy which Thou hast given to me and to the world through Jesus Christ, by whose gracious assurances Thou hast taught me to hope for the forgiveness of sin, and for that gift which is above all price—everlasting life. Most heartily would I thank and bless thy holy name that Thou didst raise up so excellent a Saviour, and send him forth amongst thy people, to be to them a light to guide their feet in the path of truth, and to bless them in the most beneficial and effectual manner, by turning them from their iniquities.

Illustrious was the display of thy wisdom, power, and goodness in raising him from the grave after he had been put to death by the cruel hands of those whom he was most anxious to save, and for whom he interceded with Thee in the midst of the agonizing pains which he sustained, entreating Thee to forgive them as they knew not what they were doing. Adored be thy goodness for the assurance which we have received, that as Thou didst raise him from the dead, so Thou wilt also raise us; and if we are faithful to the end, Thou wilt confer upon us a crown of glory.

Teach me to be ever mindful of the rapid flight of time, to reflect seriously under what obligations I am, to make a right use of it as it passes, and what anguish and remorse the misapplication of it may hereafter occasion. Let me look back, with a desire to improve by the retrospect, upon the generations which in the lapse of ages have succeeded each other, and discern the assured certainty of my being in a few years numbered with them, and gone to give my great account.

Enable me to form a right judgment upon all things that fall under my notice, and have a claim to my attention. Let me

not confound together questions of an opposite nature, nor bewilder my mind with attempts to discern a difference where none really exists. Enlighten my understanding that I may form a just judgment upon all important points, and bringing every thing to the test of patient examination, may hold fast that which is good.

When the important interests of religion are at stake, let me not confer with flesh and blood, but take a decided part and act with manly firmness and steady perseverance. Never for a moment let me hesitate between thy service aud that of any other master. Never let me halt between two opinions, where my irresolution and inconstancy may be injurious to the cause of thy truth. Let me not injudiciously espouse any party, nor permit the plea of promoting thy honour to make me infringe upon the eternal laws of veracity, righteousnesss, and charity.

Let the well-grounded hope of thy approbation and favour afford the sweetest consolation to my soul. Let my meditations upon Thee refresh and nourish my spirit, and may I most gratefully acknowledge the blessed privilege of holding communion with Thee in fervent and devout prayer. Unite my

heart to Thee in the bonds of reverential love; and let me never forget that in departing from Thee, the living God! by placing my affections upon any other object, I should be losing sight of all that is most excellent in itself and most conducive to the perfection of my nature.

May it please Thee, O God! to hear me in the humble supplication which I have been addressing to the throne of thy grace. What I ask for myself I most humbly request for all my brethren of mankind, my relations, friends, and benefactors, and also for my enemies. May they be the true and faithful servants of Thee, the most high God!—the sincere disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord—heirs of thy promises in this world, and everlasting partakers of them hereafter.

Pour out a spirit of active zeal amongst all orders, ranks, and degrees of thy people; rouse them to the most diligent exertions in the way of well-doing, and let them witness the happy effects of their endeavours in the improvement of their fellow-creatures in all that is praiseworthy and excellent, and in the increase and diffusion of piety, virtue, and truth.

And now may there be ascribed unto Thee, the eternal and unchangeable Jehovah! the King of heaven and Lord of glory! all praise and power, salvation and blessing, thanksgiving and honour, henceforth and for ever.—*Amen.*

TWENTY-NINTH ADDRESS.

Most mighty God eternal! I would bow down before thy footstool with the humblest reverence and devoutest awe, beseeching Thee to lend a gracious ear to the requests and petitions which I feel anxious to lay before Thee.

Dispense to me the good things of this world in such measure as may be fitted to my present comfort and well-being, without becoming a snare to me, or leading me to excess. Grant me such a share of them as may not be inconsistent with the real wants or reasonable expectations of any of my brethren, and give me a heart to enjoy thy mercies with greater satisfaction, when I see others partaking equally in thy providential goodness and bounty.

Continue to me the free and undiminished use of all the powers, faculties, and abilities which I enjoy, and give me wisdom to improve them as I am assured Thou requirest of me. Inspire me with the greatest dread of being ever numbered amongst those unprofitable servants who are worthy

of having their portion with the perfidious. Quicken me in my progress towards the excellence which Thou hast made me capable of reaching, and let me never be weary of well-doing, but rather press on with unceasing perseverance to the prize of my high-calling in Christ Jesus my Lord.

Happy is it for me that I have power to raise my mind, and in thought unite myself to Thee. I am sensible, O God! that my knowledge of Thee is exceedingly imperfect; but adored be thy goodness! Thou hast taught me to know Thee in the character of a father, and to trust, revere, and rejoice in thy paternal benevolence. Insignificant and impotent as I feel I am in myself, and lost in the immense multitude of thy creatures which people heaven and earth, and all the various worlds that exist in the universe, yet I know and am convinced that Thou seest me at all times, and art mercifully attentive to my happiness and welfare.

None of thy creatures are below thy gracious and condescending otice; all are equally present to thy extended and comprehensive intelligence, and enjoy thy

favour according to their progress in wisdom and virtue. We are as much the objects of thy care as though we were the only creatures that are dependent upon Thee. Thou regardest the whole family of mankind, and consultest the special good of each individual, while Thou superintendest the concerns and directest the affairs of the whole.

I would rejoice before Thee, O Lord! in the abundant and pleasing evidence afforded to mankind, that there is nothing either in the heaven above or on the earth beneath, which does not evince thy greatness and testify thy excellencies and perfections. The works of thy hand demonstrate thy power, thy wisdom, and thy goodness. All that Thou hast made is perfect in its kind. Every being is formed to enjoy the happiness of which it is capable; and for those, whom Thou hast placed in a state of probation, and made accountable for their actions, Thou hast graciously designed a state of higher felicity and greater excellence than they have yet attained.

Forgive me, O thou God of mercy! the insensibility and ingratitude of which I

have been guilty in time past. Through every part of my remaining life I pray Thee to support me under every temptation, so that I may rire superior to it, and steadily persevere in a course of uninterrupted holiness and obedience. Enable me continually to advance in all the habits of love and piety towards Thee, my God! and of benevolence and goodwill to all my brethren of mankind. May I take Jesus Christ for my pattern in these and all other virtues, for whom and for whose mission I desire to be for ever thankful.

The aid, direction, and support which I humbly implore for myself, I would earnestly entreat Thee to grant to all my brethren of mankind. Make all men partakers of the same blessings which I enjoy, and dispose them to make the best use of them. Enlighten with thy truth the nations that still sit in darkness, and bring them to the knowledge of thyself and of Jesus Christ.

Direct the great and powerful in the right discharge of the high and important duties that belong to their exalted stations. Let the spirit of sound wisdom direct the ısels and proceedings of statesmen and

legislators—of judges and magistrates. Let civil and religious liberty be guarded from every violation; and order, harmony, and happiness everywhere prevail. May princes esteem it their highest honour to be the fathers of their people—overlooking the distinctions of parties, and marking with their special favour those who are eminent for their virtue, and employ their talents to promote the public good.

Bless the efforts of such as are assiduously engaged in forming the minds of youth to piety and goodness; more particularly in training them up to become the instructors of others in moral and religious truth. Take away from the public teachers of thy word that fear of man which bringeth a snare. Teach them to keep in mind how opposite it is to their duty to act the part of men-pleasers, except for the improvement and edification of their brethren. Remove from the eyes of their minds every veil that may hide from them a just knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and give them that prudent and charitable zeal which may carry them through all difficulties, and ensure them the happiest success.

Let the cry of the afflicted and distressed enter into thy ears, O God of love! Stretch forth thy hand for their support and relief. Cause them to understand from what motives of mercy Thou art pleased to correct them. Strengthen in them all those virtues of which sickness and trouble call particularly for the exercise, and let them become in heart and soul resigned and devoted to thy most holy will.

It is in humble trust and confidence in thy goodness that I have thus poured out my spirit in earnest supplication and prayer before Thee. O grant my request, and accept the most ardent and cheerful ascriptions of praise, honour, homage, and glory, as is most justly due, to thy holy and divine majesty.—*Amen.*

THIRTIETH ADDRESS.

O Lord, heavenly Father, who possessest in thyself every possible perfection! most happy do I esteem myself that I can raise my mind to the throne of thy grace, and in the secret meditations of my soul unite myself with Thee. How great is thy goodness that Thou hast taught me to know Thee in the character of a father, and to revere, trust, and rejoice in Thee as such. It is a truth to be relied upon with the most firm conviction, that Thou art ever present with thy creatures, and ever most attentive to their welfare.

It exceeds my ability to express all the gratitude that is due to Thee for the experience Thou hast afforded me of thy constant benevolence and mercy. Though infinitely exalted above the highest conceptions of men, yet Thou graciously condescendest to listen to their prayers, and, with the tender goodness of a father, feelest a pleasure in the imperfect devotions and services of thy frail creatures, when offered up in sincerity and love.

O may the habit of prayer enliven and invigorate my best affections—fill my heart with reverence—and engage the grateful obedience of my future days. May it produce in my breast the feeling of peace, contentment, and the most ready acquiescence in all thy appointments. May it fortify me against the influence of the strongest temptations to which I am exposed, and support my spirits in the most trying circumstances in which I may at any time be placed.

Father of mercy! forgive all the insensibility and ingratitude that I have unhappily at any time been guilty of. Remember not against me my past follies and offences of any kind. Visit not upon me the sins of the earlier days of my life, and let me not feel the painful effects of my transgressions when my strength is decaying, and I am warned to bid adieu to all earthly things.

Enable me to apply my soul to the steady and serious contemplation of the momentous concerns of eternity. Give me sagacity to discern in what respect it may be truly said that all below is vanity, even vanity of vanities and vexation of spirit. Teach

me to see and be convinced that Thou hast done all things well, and that the evil introduced into thy works is the effect of the unbiassed passions and mistaken views of mankind.

Accept the tribute of my most ardent thanks for giving me capacity to form, in any instance, a correct judgment of what solicits my notice and attention. Thy name is most worthy of all praise and honour—for enlightening my mind with the great and glorious truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ—and giving me an opportunity of acquiring the most valuable and excellent knowledge. Adored be thy goodness that I can look forward beyond the fleeting scenes of time, and fix my thoughts upon heaven and heavenly things, that I can anticipate the state and condition to which I am destined hereafter, and make suitable provision for what awaits me.

Called out from day to day to encounter new difficulties and new trials, I humbly beseech Thee to grant me wisdom and fortitude that I may maintain my integrity, and persevere in the uniform and faithful discharge of my duty; that I may be

preserved from error and sin, and that the painful feeling of remorse may be a stranger to my soul. Enable me to cultivate that purity of heart and life which shall establish within me the firmest confidence in Thee, and set my mind free from all anxiety and worldly care.

Permit me, gracious God! to include in my prayer the interests of every individual that lives upon the earth. All are equally the work of thy hands, all the objects of thy care, and for them as for myself I would devoutly entreat and implore every blessing. May they be brought to know, love, and esteem each other as brethren, and become truly united under Christ, whom Thou hast appointed to be head over all things to thy Church.

Grant that all who are suffering under poverty, sickness, sorrow, or distress of any kind, may receive from Thee all the consolation which their several troubles require. May their trials be sanctified to themselves and to all who are connected with them, that thy kind intentions in sending them may be accomplished, and the most blessed effects flow from what wears the darkest aspect in their passage through this world.

Light up in the breasts of all mankind a pure flame of brotherly love and good-will, that men may be everywhere helpers of each other's joy, and cheerfully contribute, as much as in them lies, to the increase of general happiness here, and to the qualifications of their brethren for the attainment of thy promised mercies in the world to come. Incline the hearts of the rich and powerful to acts of humanity and compassion towards those who enjoy a less share of the visible bounties of thy hand. Teach them to be mindful that in the possession of the most eminent greatness, and the most unlimited authority, they are but men.

Raise up, O God! a succession of holy and good persons, whose first ambition it may be to stem the torrent of prevailing depravity, and to put in practice the best expedients for improving and ameliorating the condition of mankind. Give wisdom to those who undertake to become the public instructors of their brethren, that they may be duly qualified for their momentous office, and have both ability and inclination to discharge it aright. As the labour to be performed is

great, grant that the labourers may be both numerous and able. Endue them with a spirit of the most ardent zeal to promote the honour of thy name—the interests of true religion—and the most substantial and lasting happiness of mankind.

In the unbounded fulness of thy mercy be Thou pleased, holy Father! to hear and accept my humble petitions; and may praise undissembled and everlasting be ascribed to Thee, by all whom Thou hast made capable of understanding the relation in which Thou hast placed thyself to them—as their Father and their God.—*Amen.*

THIRTY-FIRST ADDRESS.

O Lord, almighty and everlasting God! under a deep sense of thy transcendant goodness, I would now address myself in humble and devout supplication to the throne of thy grace. As Thou hast endowed me with the powers of reason and understanding, I desire with all possible thankfulness to acknowledge my obligations to make the best use of them; and I most earnestly entreat Thee to aid and second my weak and imperfect endeavours to this end. Expand my soul, gracious Father! to the fullest extent of which it is capable, that I may form the most worthy apprehensions of thy greatness and glory, and love, honour, and obey Thee in a manner most acceptable to Thee.

Bestow upon me, merciful Lord! whatever is necessary for my improvement and comfort in the present state. Raise me up wise and judicious friends who may faithfully apprise me of my danger and preserve me from errors of judgment and sinfulness of conduct. May I be careful to improve the talents which Thou hast committed to my

care, and be able to give a good account of the manner in which I have employed them. Make me duly sensible of the danger of presumption and self-confidence that I may be upon my guard; and may not, when I flatter myself I am firm and unmoved, unhappily fall from my stedfastness.

Great reason have I to lament before Thee the languor which has too often attended me, when I have bowed before Thee to speak thy praise and offer my adorations unto Thee. Too often have I suffered unworthy thoughts to continue in my mind and to divert my attention from the solemn duties in which I was engaged. Too often have I omitted to prepare my soul to wait upon Thee in prayer, and have forgotten that Thou wast in heaven and myself upon the earth.

Do Thou of thy mercy, O Lord! forgive me all the deficiencies and excesses of my past life. Pardon my not having been more deeply sensible of that veneration, love, and gratitude which I owe to Thee. Deal not with me as I have deserved. Avert from me the judgments to which I have exposed myself. Let thy forbearance

and long-suffering have their due effect upon me; and lead me to a sincere and hearty repentance for all that I have at any time done amiss.

Fix deeply in my heart, O Lord! a just sense of the numerous and powerful obligations under which I am to love and serve Thee. Place me in such situations as will most effectually promote my improvement in the present state, and prepare me for another and a better. Give me wisdom to make the best use of the opportunities I enjoy, and to grow wiser and better by the means of grace with which I am favoured.

Incline my heart to such acts of mercy and kindness to my fellow-creatures, as Jesus my holy Master will graciously consider as done to himself. May I understand and value, as I ought, the character of my Saviour. May I subdue every feeling and propensity which he would have me overcome, and transcribe into my heart and life the amiable virtues by which he was distinguished. In acting and suffering may I strive to resemble my honoured Master, and show myself to be his by imbibing his spirit, and walking in his steps.

Hear, gracious God! the prayers I desire to offer up for the welfare and happiness of every individual of mankind. Bless with the light and instruction of the gospel all those who have hitherto sat in darkness and the shadow of death. May those who already enjoy these advantages become duly sensible of their value, and be persuaded to walk worthy of their high and holy vocation, carrying their views, their hopes, and their desires beyond the things which are seen, and are temporal, to those which are unseen and eternal.

Replenish with thy heavenly grace the chosen instructors of their brethren. May they be led by the purest motives to engage in the arduous and awfully responsible undertaking of preparing them for another world. Let them be animated with a most earnest desire both to save themselves and those who hear them; and may they feel, with humble apprehension, the danger of being themselves rejected after they have preached to others.

Direct in the right use of power all those to whom it is entrusted, that they may consider themselves as thy ministers for good to their fellow-creatures. Favour

this and all nations with the great blessing of civil government, conducted upon the principles of liberty and justice; and whilst princes everywhere rule in thy fear, may those whose duty it is to submit and obey, do so for conscience sake.

Communicate to the drooping spirits of thy afflicted servants that relief and comfort which may be a source of the sweetest inward joy. Amidst the troubles and sorrows of this world, point their views to a happier one to come, and give them wisdom to convert them into the means of securing everlasting peace.

Now unto Thee, the infinite and eternal Father! the sole object of divine adoration, be glory, praise, dominion and power, thanksgiving and blessing, for ever—*Amen.*

ADDRESSES

For Mornings and Evenings.

FIRST ADDRESS.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O GRACIOUS God! most thankfully is thy goodness to be acknowledged, for setting apart one day in seven for the sacred exercises of religion, and affording thy creatures an opportunity of worshipping and serving Thee in the company of each other. Enable me to advance in the knowledge, love, and practice of true religion in such manner as to render the day a comfort and blessing to me for the present, and fit me to enjoy a season of eternal rest and bliss in thy courts above.

SECOND ADDRESS.

SUNDAY EVENING.

I BLESS Thee, O Lord! for the opportunity which I have this day enjoyed for renewing the religious impressions which

through thy mercy had been already made upon my mind. Most earnestly would I beseech Thee to bless to my present and eternal benefit the devotions in which I have taken a part. May I cherish a deep and lasting sense of the obligations I am under, to conform myself in heart and practice to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to act at all times and under all circumstances with a view to thy favour and acceptance, that having served Thee faithfully here, I may be happy with Thee for ever.

THIRD ADDRESS.

FOR MONDAY, OR ANY OTHER MORNING.

As Thou hast in mercy brought me to the light and beginning of another day, I would thankfully acknowledge thy goodness and implore those blessings upon me and mine which we have before experienced. May my gratitude for the protection and safety which I have enjoyed in the defenceless hours of the night, animate my endeavours to do that which is most acceptable to Thee in every part of this day. May I consider that the protraction of my life lays me under renewed

obligations to love Thee and to devote myself sincerely to thy service.

FOURTH ADDRESS,

FOR MONDAY, OR ANY OTHER EVENING.

By thy favour and goodness I am brought to the close of another day, and entreat Thee, O God! to accept the tribute of my humble and devout thanks. Direct me, good Lord! in the right way—confirm my faith—enlarge my hopes—and establish me in the uniform and diligent discharge of every part of my duty. Let thy overruling providence watch over me for my preservation, whilst the shadows of the night encompass me around. Pardon what Thou hast observed to be faulty and offensive in thy sight during the day; and upon the gracious terms of sincere repentance and resolutions of better obedience, let me lie down in thy favour, prepared to awake, if so Thou shouldst ordain, in another world, in a fit state to appear before the tribunal of my judge.

FIFTH ADDRESS.

MORNING.

The continued experience of thy protecting and saving mercy increases my

debt of gratitude, and is calculated to attach me by the strongest ties to Thee and to thy service. Still let me, O God! be an object of thy favourable regards. Stretch forth thy arm as a protecting shield to guard me from every danger, and more especially from the greatest of all evils—the becoming unmindful of thy love, and indisposed to make the best returns in my power. Prosper the righteous undertakings of this day, and let me do that and that alone which shall bring me peace at the last.

SIXTH ADDRESS.

EVENING.

Thy bounteous hand still continues to supply all my reasonable wants and desires. Thou dealest with thy servant as a most gracious and benevolent God, and addest more and more to my obligations to love, serve, and obey Thee. I humbly solicit thy watchful care of me during the hours of darkness; and, with humble submission implore thy aid, that I may survive to see the returning day, and have still farther time and opportunity to work out my eternal salvation.

SEVENTH ADDRESS.

MORNING.

VERY great and adorable is the goodness which Thou hast manifested to me in the repose and refreshment which Thou hast mercifully granted me, O thou God of my life, and the author of all good! I desire to apply with renewed diligence to the faithful discharge of the duties which this day calls upon me to fulfil. May I be contented and diligent in the situation Thou hast assigned me; and habitually endeavour to be useful and to do good to as many as I am able. Thus may I approve myself in the sight of Thee, my God! and secure thy favour and blessing both now and for evermore.

EIGHTH ADDRESS.

EVENING.

MOST mighty and merciful God! I would very devoutly thank Thee for the protection from evil which I have this day enjoyed—for being enabled to go out and come in without danger or molestation—and to perform the usual duties of my

station in health, peace, and safety. Extend thy preserving care to me through the hours of darkness and repose; and, of thy infinite goodness, if it be consistent with the laws of thy universal government, bring me in peace and safety to the light of the ensuing day, that I may continue to witness the course of thy gracious providence, and to make preparation more and more for that awful time of judgment, when I and all must receive according to what we have done in the body.

NINTH ADDRESS.

MORNING.

INCLINE thine ear, most blessed God! to the voice of grateful acknowledgment which I desire to express before Thee at this time. Thy renewed favours demand continued renewals of hearty and sincere thanks. Thou hast kept me from evil—granted me comfortable and refreshing sleep—and brought me in health and peace to the light and beginning of a new day. So order my steps, gracious Father! that I may walk in thy faith and fear throughout the day; that I may live as becomes thy servant, and prepare myself for thy mercy unto life and glory everlasting.

TENTH ADDRESS.

EVENING.

Most worthy art Thou, O Lord! the preserver of men! of the best tribute of praise and thanksgiving which I can offer unto Thee, for thy kind and fatherly goodness in conducting me as Thou hast done through the past day, and bringing me to the close of it in security and peace. Let not the shadows of the night conceal any thing that might interrupt my comforts, and obscure the prospects which hope in thy mercy presents to my view. Bless me with refreshing sleep, and let me awake in thy mercy. Let a deep sense of thy continued protection engage my soul to an entire devotion of all its powers to thy service, that I may be thine in every stage of the present life, and thine in the fruition of heavenly joy hereafter.

ELEVENTH ADDRESS.

MORNING.

O Thou great and glorious Creator of the world, and of all things in it! Thou art the God of my life, and through every

period of my past days hast given me continual reason to adore thy benignity, and to glory in thy protecting and preserving goodness. Unto Thee would I now lift up the voice of thanksgiving for thy kind care of me through the past night. Blessed be thy holy name for permitting me to enjoy the refreshment of sweet repose, and raising me again to experience renewed proofs of thy loving-kindness and compassion. This day and every day may I live to Thee, and sincerely serve Thee, that so when the number of my days is complete, I may die to Thee and be for ever thine.

TWELFTH ADDRESS.

EVENING.

Great Parent of the universe, and lover of mankind! accept the offering of my humble and devout thanks, for thy goodness to me through the past day. Thou hast preserved me amidst many dangers, and continued to me the riches of thy grace. The personal and social mercies which I have experienced at thy hands, still remain with me to gladden my course, and to confirm my trust in thy benevolence and love. Let

me be a partaker of thy protecting mercy in the defenceless hours of darkness. Preserve me from every evil by night and by day; and be Thou my guide and guardian through every stage of existence in this life, and for ever.

THIRTEENTH ADDRESS.

MORNING.

To Thee, O Thou ever-living fountain of good! I desire now to offer up my morning sacrifice of adoration, praise and gratitude; and may my offering come before Thee with acceptance, and find favour in thy sight. Most justly art Thou entitled to my devoutest thanks for the peaceful repose which I have experienced in the past night, and for bringing me to the light of a new day in the present circumstances of health and comfort. To thy guardianship, direction, and blessing I humbly commit myself in every part of this day. Let me continue to experience thy grace and mercy that I may rejoice in Thee evermore, and continually proceed in that way which will finally lead me to heaven and to thyself.

FOURTEENTH ADDRESS.

EVENING.

Devoutly thankful to Thee, O God! for the preservation of thy good providence throughout the day that is now closed, I would humbly commend myself and all that belong to me to thy divine protection for this night. Keep us from all evil and danger, and from fear and dread of any. May our sleep be comfortable and refreshing, enabling us to proceed in the journey of life with alacrity and pleasure, and to continue our efforts to be useful in the world, and to promote thy glory. Dispose us to work the works of Thee, our God! patiently doing and bearing thy whole will, that our evening of life may be calm and serene, and that we may be able to retire from the world with satisfaction, and to close our eyes upon it with resignation, composure, and peace.

FIFTEENTH ADDRESS.

MORNING.

Blessed be thy kind providence, O God! that Thou hast preserved me from the evils

that walk in darkness, and hast restored my wearied powers to strength and vigour. Continue, I earnestly beseech Thee, thy loving-kindness and compassion to me, and let me be influenced by a sense of thy great goodness to make every return in my power for it. Preserve me from yielding to any temptation to forget Thee, that may occur this day. By patient continuance in well-doing may I convert every day into a means of qualifying myself more and more for thy mercy and favour unto everlasting life.

SIXTEENTH ADDRESS.

EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, who art the Father of mercies and the rewarder of all such as diligently seek Thee! it is the humble desire of my soul to be thankful for the mercies of the past day, and for every blessing which Thou still permittest me to enjoy. Be with me, O Lord! through this night. May I lie down under thy protection, and may my sleep be sweet and refreshing—fitting and qualifying me for the right discharge of the duties and engagements of

to-morrow; or if it shall seem good to Thee to cut short the term of my mortal existence before the sun returns, may I awake to a happy everlasting day; and with him who is my life, may I appear in glory, and live for ever with him in joy and felicity.

ADDRESSES,

SUITED TO OCCASIONALLY RECURRING CIRCUMSTANCES OF JOY OR SORROW.

FIRST ADDRESS.

MORNING.

After a night of trouble from any cause.

ETERNAL and all-wise God! who knowest by what means best to exercise the faith and patience of thy creatures, I would, with all humility, adore Thee both when Thou givest and when Thou takest away—when Thou makest me happy and when Thou seemest to withdraw thy favour. Grant that misfortunes may soften my heart, and render me more and more sensible of my constant dependence upon Thee. If thy afflicting hand should still be upon me or mine, give me fortitude and resignation to bear it as I ought to do, and to grow wiser and better by thy corrections.

SECOND ADDRESS.

EVENING.

When distressing circumstances have occurred.

FATHER Almighty! who disposest of thy creatures as seemeth good unto Thee. Though Thou hast caused me to drink of the cup of affliction, yet will I put my trust in Thee. O let me see thy mercy shining through the cloud that overhangs me, and convert my sufferings into means of spiritual improvement, that I may be the more humble and not the less attached to Thee, or less devoted to thy service. In health and in sickness, in success and adversity, in joy and tribulation may my soul repose its whole trust and confidence on thy loving-kindness and compassion. May the assurance that Thou art the Father of thy creatures dispel every uneasy apprehension, and fix my affections upon heaven and heavenly things.

THIRD ADDRESS.

In continued sickness.

O LORD, holy Father! who hast taught me that afflictions arise not out of the dust,

but are ordained by Thee and are subject to thy disposal. I would cherish the humble hope that in wisdom and of very faithfulness Thou hast brought trouble upon me, I would not dare complain, knowing that all thy judgments are right, and that I have the best reason to believe that thy severest visitations are no other than blessings in disguise. Grant me then, gracious God! patience to bear what Thou layest upon me, and give me grace to improve the weakness of my body to the strengthening of my soul, and to my greater preparedness for the awful change which every son and daughter of the dust must sooner or later undergo. In meek submission to thy holy will, I would implore a prolongation of my days on earth that I may be more useful to my fellow-creatures, and lay up more abundant treasures for heaven and eternity; but whether it be for life or death, I pray Thee to do what in thy unbounded wisdom Thou seest to be for the best. Fit me for whatever Thou shalt please to do with me; prepare me for my departure if Thou takest me hence: and, after I have appeared before the appointed judge, may my allotment be life and glory everlasting.

FOURTH ADDRESS.

Before a journey.

I HUMBLY desire, O Lord! to commend myself to the protection of thy kind and merciful providence, amidst the hazards and dangers of the journey which I am about to undertake. May I keep in mind that wherever I am Thou art always with me, and that no situation or circumstances in which I am placed can release me from the obligations under which I am to worship, serve, and obey Thee. May I feel my heart enlarged and expanded by seeing more of thy glorious works; and the more I become acquainted with my fellow-creatures, the more may I divest myself of all narrow and confined views, and cherish a temper of universal charity and love. I beseech Thee to bring me back in peace and safety, and to grant me the felicity of continuing for ever devoted to Thee and to thy service.

FIFTH ADDRESS.

On the loss of a friend or neighbour.

GRANT me grace, holy Father! to pay due attention to the voice of thy providence

in the various instances of mortality which take place around me. May they teach me to think aright of the uncertainty of my own life, and to apply my heart unto true christian wisdom. Let me learn how precious a talent my time is, and how fearful the consequences may be expected to be if I wantonly abuse it, or through carelessness and inattention suffer it to pass unimproved. Dispose me to adopt the best means of conveying consolation to the mind in distress, and to rejoice in every opportunity of comforting the afflicted, and soothing the pang which rends the bosom of the desolate and bereaved. Enable me to bear the losses which press most upon myself with becoming fortitude and patience, and to succeed in persuading others to act the same part, that thus the afflictions of life may be turned to the best account, and the instructions Thou intendest to convey by them, being meekly received, may be duly improved.

SIXTH ADDRESS.

For children or youth.

With warm but humble solicitude for the welfare of all who are in early life, I most earnestly beseech Thee to direct their hearts

to the love and pursuit of every thing which is in thy sight amiable and praiseworthy. Impress upon their tender minds a deep and just reverence of Thee, the great author of their being. Incline them to walk in the path of duty with increasing delight. Bless the endeavours of their parents and instructors in the care and education of them, and enable them to witness the happy fruits of their labours in the pious gratitude and dutiful obedience of those whom they have taught, that they may rejoice with each other and be happy with Thee for ever.

SEVENTH ADDRESS.

In case of accidents.

Eternal Father! who permittest thy creatures occasionally to suffer from the operation of those laws by which Thou governest the world, teach us to acquiesce with the most unfeigned submission in this thy appointment as wise and right. We thank Thee most heartily that the misfortune which we now deplore was not immediately fatal. Assuage the pain which thy afflicted servant undergoes, and prevent the further dangers which are not to be foreseen. Give success to the means resorted to by human

skill, to effect a complete recovery; and let the sufferer acquire, by the exercise of all passive virtues, that improvement in mind which may be more than equal to the injury he has sustained in his bodily frame.

EIGHTH ADDRESS.

Under severe disappointments.

ALMIGHTY Creator! who alone knowest what is best suited to the condition and circumstances of thy creatures in all cases, I desire to bow with the most humble reverence to what Thou hast appointed to befall me. Let the present experience of the inefficacy of my own endeavours teach me a useful lesson of humility and distrust of my own powers. May I never engage in any undertaking that I dare not beg of Thee to prosper, nor proceed in it without devoutly entreating thy blessing to bring it to its desired issue. Teach me to understand in what manner disappointments may be made instrumental to correct and reform in men what Thou seest to be wrong in their temper and conduct; and O! grant that I may so profit by the ill success of my attempts in the instance that now afflicts me, that I may be more cautious and circumspect for the time to

come. Let me never forget that success is not to be insured even by the most judicious exertions; and that it is my duty to trust unreservedly in Thee, and to prepare myself for the worst Thou mayest permit to overtake me.

NINTH ADDRESS.

On recovery from sickness.

O Thou merciful preserver of thy creatures! who canst remove the most alarming diseases, and save from the power of death! I would most devoutly bless thy goodness for my recovery from the illness which Thou didst permit me to fall into. Impress upon me a deep and lasting sense of this instance of thy mercy, and incline me to improve as I ought to do the health which Thou hast again enabled me enjoy. Endow me with wisdom to profit by the affliction which I have undergone, that I may know and feel in whose hands I am, and become better fitted to sustain the infirmities, pains, and sorrows which Thou mayest at any future time lay upon me. May I have prudence to guard against those liberties which are injurious to my health, and to live in such a temperate use of the good things Thou art

pleased to grant me, that I may not have to reproach myself as long as I exist, and that when death approaches I may possess the delightful consciousness of not having hastened it by any forbidden indulgence, or unwarranted gratification.

TENTH ADDRESS.

On a safe and happy return from a journey.

O God, holy Father! Thou knowest that in the midst of life, and in the full enjoyment of its comforts, I am in perpetual danger of bringing evil upon myself, and becoming the victim of disease and calamity. Teach me to be more especially upon my guard when I pass at any time through a greater variety than usual of circumstances and situations. Very great cause hast Thou given me to be thankful for the escapes which I have experienced during my journey, and the happy state in which I have returned to my home again. I would joyfully add this to the numerous instances of thy loving-kindness and compassion which Thou hast manifested towards me; and I humbly pray that my gratitude may display itself in a constant study to do that which is holy and acceptable in

thy sight, agreeably to the gospel of Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour.

ELEVENTH ADDRESS.

On a new year.

Most holy and merciful Father! I beseech Thee to accept my humble and unfeigned Thanks for bringing me to the beginning of this new period of time in the circumstances and situation in which I now am. Adored be thy goodness for the many mercies which the past year hath witnessed, both in respect to my personal comforts and social enjoyments—my temporal prosperity and spiritual privileges—the bounties of thy kind overruling providence, and the riches of thy grace and love in Christ Jesus.

Grant, O God! that all thy goodness and mercy may be sanctified to me, and produce their proper fruits in my future conduct. May I live under a lively sense of my obligations to Thee as the author and giver of every good, and more especially as the prolonger of my life. Forgive me the faults and follies, the sins and transgressions which I penitently lament. May

my gratitude for the time already granted lead me to improve that which is to come; and the longer I live, may I become the more earnest to rise to the attainment of true virtue, and to answer all the ends and purposes of my earthly existence.

TWELFTH ADDRESS.

On a birth-day.

As Thou hast been pleased, gracious God! to add another year to my life, I desire to enter upon the one before me with the most cordial gratitude for thy continued goodness, and for the numerous proofs Thou hast afforded me of thy loving-kindness and favour. Open my eyes to see wherein I have come short of the excellence to which Thou requirest me to advance, and aid my resolutions to act in a wiser manner for the time to come.

Give me wisdom to reflect how short the term of human life is, and upon what an uncertain tenure I hold my present existence, and all the comforts which conduce to render that existence a blessing. Dispose me to make it my first object to live to Thee and in dutiful obedience to thy

holy laws, to be useful to my fellow-creatures, and to prepare for that time when the most impartial judgment will be passed upon me at the bar of eternal justice, and I shall receive according to what I have done in the body.

HYMNS

TO BE RECITED OR SUNG (ONE OR MORE) BEFORE OR AFTER THE USE OF THE PRAYERS.

HYMN I.

The goodness and providence of God.

1 I BLESS the Lord! the good! the just!
The object of my faith and trust,
Who pours his blessings from the skies,
And crowns my days with rich supplies.

2 'Tis to his care I owe my breath,
And all my near escapes from death;
Safety and health to God belong,
He heals the sick and guards the strong.

3 He makes the just and unjust prove
The common blessing of his love:
But a wide diff'rence still remains
In inward joy and outward pains.

4 Yet small will this wide diff'rence be
To that which future worlds shall see,
When the great Judge ascends his throne,
And each shall reap as each has sown.

5 Then will the stubborn sinner find
That God is just as well as kind,
And, taught by dire experience, know
That guilt must surely lead to woe.

6. But after God has rais'd the dead,
And earthly joys and hopes are fled,
The good alone in realms above
Shall taste the blessings of his love.

HYMN II.

Humble confidence in God.

1 THE God that made me is my hope,
My help for ever near:
His mercy keeps my spirits up,
In all I doubt or fear.

2 His counsels shall conduct my feet
Through this dark wilderness;
And lead me to the blissful seat
Of peace and holiness.

3 No blessings equal to his love
I through creation see:
On earth beneath, in heaven above,
There's none so good as he.

4 The man who far from God removes
Will find his comforts die:
Not all the vanities he loves
Can peace or hope supply.

5 But to draw near to Heav'n's King
Will prove my best employ;
In life, the sweetest joy will bring,—
In death, my only joy.

HYMN III.

The greatness of God.

1 GREAT is the Lord, his pow'r unknown,
And let his praise be great;
I'll sing the honours of his throne,
His works of grace repeat.

2 His praise shall dwell upon my tongue,
And, while my lips rejoice,
Let those who hear my sacred song
Unite their cheerful voice.

3 Fathers to sons should teach his name,
And children learn his ways;
Ages to come his truth proclaim,
And loudly sound his praise.

4 His kingdom shall for ever stand,
Though earth itself remove;
All things are govern'd by his hand,
And all his acts are love.

HYMN IV.

A thanksgiving hymn.

1 O COME, let us sing to the Lord a new song,
And praise Him to whom all praises belong:
While we think of his works with gladness and joy,
Let a psalm of thanksgiving our praises employ.
O come, to his name let us joyfully sing,
For the Lord is a great and omnipotent King;
All things that we see by his fiat were made,
And of this mighty world the foundations he laid.

2 He plac'd in the centre yon beautiful sun,
And the orbs which around at due distances run,
To receive, as they haste their vast rounds to complete,
Of a lustre so dazzling the light and the heat.
What language of man can the brightness unfold
Of *him* whose perfections can never be told?
What a light is *his* light! of his infinite day
The sun in its sphere can paint but a ray?

3 When the sun in the evening is out of our sight,
And the moon is enlighten'd to govern the night,
His existence we mark in that high splendid roof,
Where the stars in their order shine forth in its proof:
While the works so immense of his fingers we see,
And think of ourselves, alas! what are we?
Yet whilst 'tis our glory his name to adore,
E'en spirits celestial can't boast any more!

SECOND PART.

1 PRAISE the Lord upon earth, ye nations and lands!
Ye seasons and times that fulfil his commands!
Since his works in all places his goodness proclaim,
Let the people who see them give thanks to his name:
For the good that he wills to communicate brings
Into visible forms his invisible things;
Their appearance may change as his laws shall ordain,
But the goodness that forms them shall ever remain.

2 What a world of good things does all nature produce!
Which the Lord in his mercy hath made for our use;
The earth, by his blessing bestow'd on its soil
By his rain and his sun, yields us corn, wine, and oil:
Let men to adore him then thankfully join,
When fed with his corn, or refresh'd by his wine;

As in wealth, so in gratitude let them abound,
And the voice of his praise be heard all the world round.

3 They that o'er the wide ocean their business pursue
Can tell to his wonders what praises are due;
When, toss'd to and fro by the huge swelling wave,
They rise towards the clouds, or sink down to the grave:
Dismay'd at the tempest, which mocks all their skill,
They cry to the Lord, and he maketh it still:
His works in remembrance, ye mariners, keep!
And praise him whose judgments are like the great deep.

4 He hushes the waves of the boisterous main,
And the tumults of men, which are equally vain.
The goodness of God let the people confess,
Whom wars do not waste, nor proud tyrants oppress;
And devoutly contemplate *his* wonderful ways,
Who turneth the fierceness of men to his praise,—
Their lands in due season shall yield their increase,
And the Lord give his people the blessings of peace.

THIRD PART.

1 OUR maker is high far above all our thought,
How then shall we praise him as well as we ought?
What tongue can express, what words can show forth
The praise that is due to his manifold worth?
Ye righteous, and all that in virtue excel!
Begin the glad work that becomes you so well;
In him and his works devoutly rejoice,
And exert in his praise the full force of your voice.

2 The Lord hath his dwelling far out of our view,
Yet humbleth himself to behold what we do;
To his works all around him his mercies extend,
His works have no number,—his mercies no end.

He accepteth the thanks which in spirit we pay,
Tho' we ne'er can enrich him by all we can say;
How just is the duty, how pure the delight!
By hearty thanksgiving to honour him right.

3 Unite in his praise all ye pow'rs of my mind!
Praise the Lord who hath been so exceedingly kind;
He spareth my life, forgiveth my sin,
And pointeth the way I ought to walk in.
When I speak, let me thank him. Whenever I write,
The remembrance of him let the subject excite;
May he guide to his glory my tongue and my pen,
And make ev'ry thing praise him, Amen, and Amen.

HYMN V.

All creatures called upon to praise God.

1 ITS vocal powers let ev'ry creature raise,
To sing with joy its mighty maker's praise:
Ye lofty heav'ns begin the solemn sound,
And let it spread the wide creation round.

2 Ye angel hosts who, near his dazzling seat,
Wrapt in perpetual transports humbly wait!
You best must know the glories of your King,
In sweetest, softest strain his wonders sing.

3 Praise him, thou sun, great ruler of the day!
Before whose splendour thine must fade away;
To him the honours, paid to thee, restore,
And teach mankind their maker to adore.

4 Ye moon and stars, who with more feeble light
Break through the shades, and gild the gloomy night!

Far as you can diffuse your languid rays,
Tell his great name, and celebrate his praise.

5 Fair light! the first of all created things!
From whom all bliss and beauty springs,
Help the blind world to see their maker shine
With light essential fairer far than thine.

6 Ye splendid spheres that ever tuneful move!
Drawn to your centres by magnetic love,
Convey his name through all the vast expanse,
Where to the music of his voice you dance.

SECOND PART.

1 LET gentle winds with balmy breath proclaim
Fair nature's God, and spread his glorious name:
Let awful thunders rolling in the air,
And storms and tempests loud his praise declare.

2 Let mists, and clouds, and meteors all conspire
In this blest work, and help to swell the choir;
While foaming billows to his honour roar,
And seas resound his name from shore to shore.

3 Ye fertile plains, display your gayest pride;—
Ye valleys, to his glory low subside:
And at his call, ye mountains, stately rise,
And bear his praises to the neighb'ring skies.

4 Ye trees of ev'ry kind, ye fruitful vines,
Ye spreading oaks, and tall aspiring pines,
Or bend your heads, or let your juices flow,
To honour him at whose command you grow.

5 To him let ev'ry beast his tribute pay,—
The grazing flocks, and lions o'er their prey:

To celebrate his bounty and his pow'r,
Bleat all ye lambs, and all ye lions roar.

6 Ye birds, who through the airy regions wing!
Nature's musicians! you his praise must sing:
Ye flies and worms! your various skill display,
Sing though you can't, this homage you may pay.

THIRD PART.

1 WHILE nature's all in joy, shall man remain
And, silent, have his pow'r to sing in vain?
O no! let ev'ry rank, and sex, and age
With all their might in this blest work engage.

2 Ye kings and potentates, ye gods on earth!
And ev'ry man of meaner rank and birth!
Submit yourselves to *his* unrivall'd sway,
Whom 'tis your highest honour to obey.

3 Let age, though feeble, celebrate his praise,
And youth unite its more impassion'd lays;
O! let his love each aged heart inflame,
And infants learn to lisp his wond'rous name.

4 But, above all, ye good! your breath employ
To sound his praise abroad, and tell the world your joy.
You, the blest objects of his love and choice,
His glory sing with well tun'd heart and voice.

5 Loud as his thunders let the noble sound
From heav'n to earth, from world to world rebound;
Let art and nature in the song conspire,
And the whole earth become one joyful choir.

HYMN VI.

Admiration of the works of God.

1 O may Jehovah deign to aid
A feeble mortal's lays;
Are not his wond'rous works display'd,
His glorious name to praise?

2 Throughout the year his beauties shine,
His presence we may trace;
And view each day in beams divine
The radiance of his face.

3 Extended wide from pole to pole
Are all the works of God;
While seasons change and planets roll
Obsequious to his nod.

4 When orient morn unfolds each flow'r,
His charms in them we view;
And own his kind, his genial pow'r
In eve's refreshing dew.

5 To speak his praise and show his might
All things in nature join;
The air and earth and seas unite
To prove him all divine.

HYMN VII.

Resignation and contentment.

1 In ev'ry creature I behold his pow'r,
In each event God's promises adore;
His promises shall cheer my drooping soul,
His precepts guide me, and his love controul.

2 If friendly in the vale of tears I stray,
When briars wound and thorns perplex my way,
His goodness let me ever keep in mind,
And with strong confidence believe him kind.

3 And when at last I quit this transient scene,
O may I leave it with a heart serene;
My ardent hopes most firmly fix on high,
And pray in him to whom I've liv'd to die.

HYMN VIII.

Purposes of praise and obedience.

1 COME, sacred muse! descend and sing
The praises of your heav'nly king;
And aid us to unite with thee
In strains of holy harmony.

2 With ardent minds, and souls sincere,
Replete with reverential fear,
Our voices high to heav'n we'll raise,
And dwell with rapture on his praise.

3 He reigns almighty and supreme,
Ready to pardon and redeem;
His mercy is t'wards those who show
True signs of penitential woe.

4 Our hearts and all our pow'rs within
We'll strive to purify from sin;
And thus with humble zeal prepare
In everlasting bliss to share.

HYMN IX.

Thankful acknowledgments.

1 MY warmest thanks to God are due,
For all his favours old and new;
In constant streams his bounty flows,
Nor end nor intermission knows.

2 His kindness consolation gives,
My num'rous wants his hand relieves;
Impossible I should be poor
Who live on his exhaustless store.

3 Whene'er my wishes he denies,
It is because he's good and wise;
Afflictions under which I mourn
He can—he does—to blessings turn.

4 Let all his mercies be imprest
Most deeply on my grateful breast,
That I may never more forget
The whole or any single debt.

HYMN X.

Religion admired and commended.

1 SOFT are the fruitful show'rs that bring
The welcome promise of the spring,
And soft the vernal gale;
Sweet the wild warbling of the grove,
The voice of nature and of love,
That gladdens ev'ry vale.

2 But softer in the mourner's ear
Sounds the mild voice of mercy near,
That whispers sins forgiv'n;
And sweeter far the music swells,
When to the raptur'd soul she tells
Of peace and promis'd heav'n.

3 Fair are the flow'rs that deck the ground;
And groves and gardens blooming round
Unnumber'd charms unfold:
Bright is the sun's meridian ray,
And bright the beams of setting day,
That robe the clouds in gold.

4 But far more fair the pious breast,
In richer robes of goodness drest,
Where heav'n's own graces shine;
And brighter far the prospects rise,
That burst on faith's delighted eyes,
From glories all divine.

HYMN XI.

The value of the sacred writings.

1 IN God's reveal'd and holy word
What perfect wisdom shines!
For ever be his name ador'd
For these celestial lines.

2 Here may the wretched sons of want
Exhaustless riches find;
Riches, above what earth can grant,
And lasting as the mind.

3 Here the fair tree of knowledge grows,
And yields a free repast;
Sublimer sweets than nature knows
Invite the longing taste.

4 Here the Redeemer's welcome voice
Spreads joy and peace around;
And life and everlasting joys
Attend the blissful sound.

5 O may these heav'nly pages be
My ever dear delight;
And still new beauties may I see,
And still increasing light.

HYMN XII.

Christ the light of the world.

1 MORTALS salute the prince of peace,
The chosen servant of the Lord;
He comes the prisoners to release
By his enlight'ning heav'nly word.

2 He comes commission'd from above,
The advocate of righteousness;
Meekness and patience, truth and love,
Conspire to form his princely dress.

3 Th' enlight'ning spirit of the Lord,
On holy men aforetime shed,
On this great prophet's richly pour'd,
And rests upon his sacred head.

4 Cheer'd by his beams, our souls to God
Shall run unweariedly the way;
The path which he has mark'd and trod
Will lead us to eternal day.

HYMN XIII.

The promised land.

1 FAR from these narrow scenes of night,
Unbounded glories rise,—
And realms of infinite delight,
Unknown to mortal eyes.

2 Fair distant land! could mortal eyes
But half thy charms explore,
How would our spirits long to rise
And dwell on earth no more.

3 There pain and sickness never come,
And grief no more complains;
Health triumphs in immortal bloom,
And endless pleasure reigns.

4 No cloud those blissful regions know,
For ever bright and fair;
And no one source of mortal woe
Can ever enter there.

5 O may the heav'nly prospect fire
Our hearts with ardent love,
Till wings of faith and strong desire
Bear ev'ry thought above.

THE END.